Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-088
Tuesday
9 May 1989

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CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Algeria, Tunisia Mediate With Libya on Summit *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I 4 May]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Rejects WHO Request To Delay Application *[MENA]* 1
Habash Calls for 'Escalating Armed Struggle' *[KUNA]* 1
Paper Reports 'Arafat's Paris News Conference *[Paris LE MONDE 5 May]* 1
'Arafat Adviser on Paris Visit *[INA]* 2
Adviser Cited on Peace Process *[Paris LE MONDE 4 May]* 3
Paper Interviews PLO Delegate to U.S. Talks *[Sofia POGLED 1 May]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

President Mubarak To Visit Iraq After Jordan *[MENA]* 6
Mubarak Interviewed on Economy, Arab Ties *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 6 May]* 6
African Bank To Grant $50 Million Loan *[AL-AHRAM 7 May]* 14
Minister Details Housing Project, Cost *[AL-AHRAM 7 May]* 14
France's President Mitterrand Telephones Mubarak *[MENA]* 14
Nominated Ambassadors, Consuls General Named *[MENA]* 14
Soviet Official Arrives for Committee Meetings *[MENA]* 15
Yugoslav Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 15

Libya

JANA Cites 'Arafat on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Call 15
Human Rights Committee Formed in Tripoli *[JANA]* 15
Al-Qadhdhafi Telephones Syria's Hafiz al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 15
Algeria's Bendjedid Thanked for Prisoner Release *[JANA]* 15

Mauritania

New Curfew Times Announced in Nouakchott *[Nouakchott Radio]* 15
Taya Receives French Presidential Adviser *[AFP]* 16
Senegalese Nationals Reportedly Being Held *[BBC]* 16

Morocco

Arab League Summit Proposed for 23-24 May *[Rabat Radio]* 16
King Hassan II Grants Pardons on 'Id al-Fitr *[Rabat Radio]* 17
More Pardons Granted *[Rabat Radio]* 17

Western Sahara

Polisario To Release 200 Moroccan Prisoners *[APS]* 17

IRAQ

KUNA Interviews Hammadi on Visit to France 18
Industry Minister Discusses Military Production *[Cairo AL-AKHBAR 7 May]* 18
Repatriation of POW's To Be Discussed in Geneva *[INA]* 21
Communications Project With Saudis Under Way *[INA]* 21

ISRAEL

Shamir Denies U.S. 'Warning' on Arresting Leaders *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
Foreign Ministry Complains of Use of 'Terror' *[HA'ARETZ 30 Apr]* 23
Arens: Elections Impossible During 'Uprising' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Rabin: Harsher Steps Only if Necessary *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Sharon Opposes Nusaybah, Al-Husayni Candidacy *[HADASHOT 9 May]* 24
Foreign Ministry To Prepare Elections Proposals *[THE JERUSALEM POST 30 Apr]* 24
Knesset Committee To Discuss Shamir's Plan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Peres: Shamir Election Plan 'Reasonable,' 'Fair' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Head of Gaza Civil Administration Meets Notables *[Jerusalem International]* 25
Notables' Mediation With PLO Rejected *[AL HAMISHMAR 30 Apr]* 25
Palestinian Rejection of Shamir Plan 'Mistake' *[HADASHOT 28 Apr]* 26
End of Refusal To Negotiate With PLO Urged *[HA'ARETZ 4 May]* 26
Palestinians Urged To Accept Election Plan *[Jerusalem International]* 27
PLO Using Gaps Between Shamir, Rabin Plans *[HA'ARETZ 30 Apr]* 27
Shamir Comments on Mitterrand-'Arafat Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Shamir Briefs French Official *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
Mitterrand Invited to Palestinian 'Capital' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
'Arafat-Mitterrand Meeting Signals Support *[AL-FAJR 3 May]* 29
'Arafat's Statements in Paris Reflect 'Clarity' *[AL-SHA'B 4 May]* 30
'Arafat's Remarks on Attack on Jews Decried *[Jerusalem International]* 30
PLO Attempt To Join WHO 'Negative,' 'Immoral' *[Jerusalem International]* 31
Israel Rejects Soviet Proposal To Meet in Cyprus *[HATZOFE 9 Mar]* 31
Druze Community Sends Money, Emissary to Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
'Elimination' of Collaborators Order Viewed *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 Apr]* 31
Authorities Pleased Mayor Not Resigning *[Jerusalem TV]* 32
Rabin on Countering Arab Countries' Missiles *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Police Use Tear Gas To Disperse Golan March *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Poll Shows Public Divided on Talks With PLO *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 Apr]* 32
Poll Shows Drop in Alignment Popularity *[HADASHOT 28 Apr]* 33
Survey Finds Public Prefers Likud 'Young Guard' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 30 Apr]* 33
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories 34
2 Gaza Arabs Killed in Accident *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Update on 8 May Incidents *[THE JERUSALEM POST 9 May]* 34
1 Killed, 2 Hurt in West Bank *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34

LEBANON

Al-Huss Cables Shevardnadze on Baker Meeting *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Prime Minister al-Huss Leaves for Damascus 9 May *[VOP]* 35
League Envoy, Force Commander Due in Beirut *[Beirut Radio]* 35
PSP on Government's 'Negligence,' 'Hesitation' *[VOM]* 35
Al-Khatib Command Notes Escalation by 'Awn *[VOM]* 36
Officials Report Arrival of Flour, Oil Shipments *[Voice of National Resistance]* 36
Fuel Reaches Power Plant *[RFL]* 36
8 May Shelling Casualty Toll Updated *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Syrian Tanks Shell Communications Center *[VOL]* 37
Italian Embassy Hit by Shell; No Casualties *[Rome International]* 37
Shelling of West Beirut, Other Areas Detailed *[VOM]* 37
Al-Biqa' Missile Site Reportedly Destroyed *[VOL]* 38

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Continues Visit 39
Received by Najibullah *[Kabul Radio]* 39
Delivers Mugabe Message *[Kabul Radio]* 39
Meets With 'Abdul Wakil *[Kabul Radio]* 40
'Pessimistic' Regarding Peace *[AFP]* 40
Departs for Moscow *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Najibullah Receives Pakistani Party Leader *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Najibullah's Invitation to 'Arafat Accepted *[Kabul Radio]* 41
'Extremists' Killed, Wounded in Various Provinces *[Kabul Radio]* 41
Islamabad Sums up Jalalabad, Khowst Situation 41
Jalalabad Fighting Intensifies *[Islamabad Radio]* 41

India

Spokesman Denies 'Secret Talks' Held With Nepal *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Home Minister on President's Rule in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 42
'Third Batch' of Troops Returns From Sri Lanka *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Armed Youths Attack Bus in West Bengal, Kill 3 *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Parliament Briefed on Defense Production Program *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Commentary Criticizes U.S. Attitude on Trade *[Delhi Radio]* 42
PATRIOT on UK's Pledge on Anti-Terrorism *[25 April]* 44

Iran

Former U.S. Official on 'False' Analyses *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Ex-Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani Interviewed *[ETTELA'AT 19 Apr]* 44
Editorial on U.S. 'Non-Stop' Espionage *[TEHRAN TIMES 29 Apr]* 49
TV Program on U.S. 'Espionage' Reviewed *[Tehran International]* 49
IRNA Notes Reaction to Hashemi-Rafsanjani Call 50
French Shi'ite Leader Criticizes Majlis Speaker *[Paris Radio]* 51
Khamene'i Leads Delegation to Beijing 8 May *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Mirzadeh Previews Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Trade, Cultural Exchanges Seen *[IRNA]* 52
Tehran Commentary on Visit 52
Construction Jihad Minister Leaves for DPRK *[IRNA]* 53
Envoy to Moscow Previews Majlis Leader's Visit *[IRNA]* 53
Iraq Expells 105 Along Bakhtaran Border *[IRNA]* 53
Lavasani, Red Cross Official Discuss POW's *[IRNA]* 53
Velayati Urges ICRC Action *[IRNA]* 53
Joint Maneuvers in Gulf, Strait Continue 54
Further on Operations *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Maneuvers Called 'Success' *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Navy Commander Comments *[IRNA]* 54
Majlis Speaker Views Maneuvers *[IRNA]* 54
Prosecutor General Kho'iniha Interviewed *[KEYHAN 20 Apr]* 55
Editorial on Leadership Issue in Constitution *[TEHRAN TIMES 2 May]* 57
ETTELA'AT Editorial on Future Leadership *[25 Apr]* 58
15 Drug Smugglers Executed in Provinces 8 May *[Tehran Radio]* 59
Oil Exports Begin; Facilities Reconstructed *[Tokyo KYODO]* 59
New Ground Satellite Station Established *[Tehran Radio]* 59

Pakistan

Official on Efforts To Check Nuclear Weapons *[Islamabad Radio]* 59
Minister on Plans for Return of Afghan Refugees *[Islamabad Radio]* 60

Inter-Arab Affairs

Algeria, Tunisia Mediate With Libya on Summit

JN0605101489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 4 May 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Tunisia and Algeria are exerting efforts to persuade Libya to reconsider its decision to boycott the Arab emergency summit, scheduled to be held in Morocco by the end of the month, if Egypt participates in it.

Sources close to the Moroccan Foreign Ministry have told AL-ITTIHAD that there is Arab unanimity on taking part in the summit, that all reactions to the Moroccan king's invitation to attend the summit were positive, and that Egypt's participation in it is now certain.

These sources said that the emergency summit will be convened in Casablanca. They also said that Moroccan committees are currently working on preparations for the summit and that the agenda will include the latest developments on the Palestinian arena, the Lebanese question, and amending the Arab League Charter.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Rejects WHO Request To Delay Application

NC0805164389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Tunis, 8 May (MENA)—The PLO has turned down WHO Director General Hiroshi Nakajima's proposal for WHO to extend aid to the Palestinian people, provided that the Palestinians postpone their application to join WHO to another date.

Nakajima arrived in Tunis the day before yesterday to meet with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Nakajima's visit to Tunis and his meeting with 'Arafat follow a short visit he made to Washington, where he discussed this subject with the U.S. Administration.

Palestinian sources have stated that 'Arafat told Nakajima that the PLO is determined to submit the application to the WHO General Assembly, indicating that such a proposal has come too late. The WHO General Assembly is expected to discuss the Palestinian request to obtain full membership in WHO today.

It is known that the United States has threatened to sever its aid to WHO if it agrees to the State of Palestine's request to join the organization. The United States pays $72 million annually to WHO, plus another $30 million allocated for AIDS research.

Habash Calls for 'Escalating Armed Struggle'

LD0805190489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1227 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Damascus, May 8 (KUNA)—The secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Dr. George Habash today called for escalating armed struggle against Israel which occupies the Palestinian homeland and practices all sorts of terrorism and repression against the Palestinian people.

Habash, in a statement issued on the occasion of the Palestinian uprising's 18th month, said the intifadah [uprising] will never come to a halt and the Palestinian people will not accept "meagre political bribes" represented by Israeli-proposed local elections in the occupied land.

He underlined that the Palestinian National Charter will not be changed and the Palestinian masses know well how to protect revolution until achievement of their rights to return, self-determination and the independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The mechanism to accomplish the Palestinian central goals is the international conference, Habash said, apparently in rejection for direct talks.

The Palestinian leader called on the Arab masses to extend all possible support to the intifadah and urged the Arab heads of state to determine their relations with the U.S. on the basis of its attitude toward the Palestinian rights to return, self-determination and statehood.

Paper Reports 'Arafat's Paris News Conference

PM0805140889 Paris LE MONDE in French 5 May 89 p 3

[Unattributed report: "The Main Points of the News Conference"]

[Text] The following are the main answers given by Mr 'Arafat during his news conference on Wednesday 3 May:

The PLO Charter: "As I say, the declaration of independence advocates a solution based on two states. And this means that the charter is obsolete [caduque]. You can find the translation (of this word—LE MONDE editor's note) in the Larousse (French dictionary—LE MONDE editor's note).... I have not come here to give a lecture on linguistics or law. It is enough for people, including President Mitterrand, to understand this word. Additional explanations will be given in the framework of the international conference. My viewpoint must not be interpreted."

Asked whether the Palestine National Council [PNC] was going to abrogate the charter, he said: "The PNC has clearly stated its position by adopting the declaration of independence based on a two state solution. This is not

a political decision which can develop or change according to political programs. It is a strategic line which is announced in the declaration of independence and which nobody can change."

With regard to statements by Georges Habash, general secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who believes that Mr 'Arafat lacks the power to abrogate the charter, he said: "Everyone is entitled to his opinion. My brother Georges Habash's opinion is an expression of Palestinian democracy. Are you opposed to that democracy?"

The proposal to form an Arab delegation: "If Israel continues to reject an international conference, I have proposed that a joint Arab delegation, chaired by Egypt, be formed. This delegation (which will be composed of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian state, and Egypt) will contact our French friends with regard to preparations for the international conference."

Mr 'Arafat revealed that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had informed him that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is prepared to participate "in a committee of the three Arab countries responsible for planning the international conference."

Relations between the PLO and Syria: "Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaih told me that Syria had agreed to a tripartite meeting (PLO-Syria-Algeria—LE MONDE editor's note) to improve relations between the PLO and Syria."

Elections in the occupied territories: "I agree to the implementation of a Namibian-style agreement in Palestine (in other words with international guarantees—LE MONDE editor's note). Democracy and freedom are indivisible."

Appeal to Israel: "Let Israel come to the international conference. At a negotiating table any side can raise any subject. Come, let us light the pipe of peace."

Results of the visit and France's role: "I have asked President Mitterrand to use all his personal influence to give a boost to the Near East peace process. We need the efforts of all those who believe in peace. Coordination between us and France will continue. This visit reflects the importance of France's role as a state and of the role played by President Mitterrand who is a leader of international standing."

The intifadah: "The intifadah was one of the main subjects discussed with all the French leaders, including President Mitterrand. President Mitterrand is known for his stance on defending human rights. He cannot tolerate massacres being perpetrated against Palestinian children. I call on French, European, and world opinion to end the crimes perpetrated by the Israeli army against our women and children, and our civilization."

'Arafat Adviser on Paris Visit

JN0505131889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—Bassam Abu Sharif, media adviser to the president of the State of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat, has described Yasir 'Arafat's visit to France, which ended last Thursday [4 May], as a very major step and a real breakthrough in establishing the international status of the Palestinian national struggle.

In an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH published here today, he said that the French president's invitation to, reception of, and meeting with Yasir 'Arafat constitute a great step forward in serving the Palestine cause on the one hand and in providing the conditions for peace in the region on the other.

Abu Sharif added: France is a Western country and a UN Security Council permanent member. It is also a principal country in the EEC and will assume its chairmanship in 2 months. It has a significant political and moral role in Europe, the Arab world, and in the whole world. Furthermore, the French president's status in international and humanitarian affairs gives this meeting added significance.

Abu Sharif said that the two leaders held thorough and wide-ranging discussions at the Elysee Palace, and that the discussions went into an unexpected amount of detail, which was the reason for the extended length of the meeting.

Abu Sharif said that in general, the discussions dealt more with procedural issues than with substance, since both sides were in basic agreement on the principles at stake—such as the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, the right of all states in the region to live within secure and recognized borders, and considering the PLO a principal party in all efforts to reach a settlement.

Abu Sharif said that the mood of the talks was optimistic and that this was demonstrated in the common expectation that agreement on the preparatory committee for the international conference will be reached and that the committee will begin its work before the end of this year.

Abu Sharif asserted that the intifadah [uprising] constitutes a source of very serious pressure on "Israel" and its occupying troops. At the same time, it fosters an important feeling of support and solidarity with the Palestinian people in their diplomatic campaign—particularly in its current phase—and puts pressure on both Israel and the United States.

Concluding his statements, Abu Sharif asserted that, if reached, a common European position on the Palestine question would inevitably impose itself on Washington and draw it into adopting an effective position toward the current "Israeli" intransigence.

Adviser Cited on Peace Process

PM0505101889 Paris LE MONDE in French 4 May 89 p 2

[Article by Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat: "The PLO's Aim Is To Achieve Peace"]

[Text] The PLO is in favor of holding elections in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza as soon as possible. The PLO is proud of a democratic tradition which cost it and the Palestinian people so much before it became an established custom and a method of communication and decision-making.

But democracy cannot exist without freedom of action and of choice. Democracy and freedom are two inseparable aspects of one action united dialectically, which means that one cannot be achieved without the other. That is why elections in occupied Palestine can only achieve their democratic goal if they take place in an atmosphere of freedom, which does not exist at all under Israeli occupation.

Since 1967, the Israeli occupation forces have resorted to arms to solve all problems related to freedom and to attack or violate all human rights. How can there be free elections with such repression? How can free elections be held when the candidates are constantly exposed to administrative detention without charge or trial?

The bitter experience of the 1976 municipal elections in the West Bank and Gaza proves that free and democratic elections cannot be held under the domination of the Israeli occupation.

Under such a repressive Israeli political atmosphere, so similar to what is happening in Pretoria, who can guarantee the freedom of elections and the free practice of democracy? Who can guarantee that the results will be respected and that no candidate democratically elected by the Palestinian people will be arrested, murdered, or expelled?

The guarantee of free elections and respect for their results cannot be achieved all at once in one stroke; it is a complex matter. First, the Palestinians living in the cities, villages, and camps on the West Bank and in Gaza who, since Shamir's visit to Washington, have suffered the hated campaigns of organized terrorism, which include constant massacres, must have a neutral monitoring mission and protection which can only be provided in an international framework.

Consequently, the PLO would agree to its forces remaining to one side, and hopes that the Israeli forces will withdraw, giving way to an international or multinational force. It would even agree to an Israel right of veto over the monitoring mission.

First Stage

It is natural to mention here a timetable for Israel's withdrawal and the deployment of this international force. This timetable could perfectly well be negotiated, as in similar situations, with the UN Security Council's permanent members participation and that of the two superpowers.

This first factor cannot be regarded as sufficient to guarantee the observance of, and respect for, the election results, because the Israeli forces, taking advantage of the imbalance of forces on the West Bank and Gaza, will be able to carry out their operations whenever they please. But if the elections, which are the first stage in the region's peace process, are linked to other phases of that process, the observance of the results will be guaranteed and the peace process can be carried through.

Defining a Transitional Period

It is appropriate to make the following points here:

1—The Palestinians must go to the polls to elect their representatives in the parliamentary assemblies in the same way that U.S. or European citizens elect their representatives to Congress or Parliament.

2—These elections must form the essential stage in a transitional phase in preparation for the international Middle East peace conference in which all parties to the conflict will participate in addition to the five permanent Security Council members, and which will be based on resolutions 242 and 338 (relating to the withdrawal of the occupation forces) and on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

3—This international conference could be preceded by bilateral or multilateral negotiations with a Palestinian delegation formed by one or several executive bodies chosen by the legislative council elected by the Palestinians, in exactly the same way as the U.S. Government appointed the members of its delegations to the negotiations on Afghanistan, Namibia, and so forth.

This international conference could of course be preceded by multilateral discussions and negotiations which would benefit from the possibilities provided by the Security Council and its permanent members.

4—The length of this transitional and preparatory period for the international conference should be defined to ensure that it does not exceed 6 months or an agreed period. In other words, the establishment of a comprehensive peace started by these elections can only be guaranteed if the stages of reaching peace are interconnected; this is the only way of obtaining the expected results.

If there is a sincere desire to build a real and comprehensive peace, all the issues envisaged or put forward by the parties involved in the conflict can be tackled at the negotiating table during the international conference. The most important of these issues is obviously the one which relates to guarantees concerning the security and integrity of all states in the region, including Israel and Palestine.

The PLO is prepared to accept the international guarantees requested by Israel in addition to its own, which are essential. The PLO's aim is not to conclude a truce with Israel but a peace agreement. Peace is not just a document or a promise, it is the desire to live side by side without any blood—Jewish or Arab—ever being shed again.

Paper Interviews PLO Delegate to U.S. Talks

AU0305101989 Sofia POGLED in Bulgarian No 18 1 May 89 p 7

[Interview with Yasir Adib 'Abd Rabbuh, "PLO delegate to the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue in Tunis" by Mikhail Noev; date and place not given]

[Text] We are still a long way apart, says Yasir Adib 'Abd Rabbuh, leader of the PLO delegation to the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue in Tunis, in a special interview for POGLED.

The direct PLO-U.S. dialogue introduced a qualitatively new element into the extremely complicated political developments of the Middle East crisis. The talks in Tunis are an expression of the new political realities in one of the world's most important crisis areas.

For the most reliable and competent assessment of the previous two rounds of talks, we approached the leaders of the PLO and the U.S. delegations in Tunis. Unfortunately, so far, we have received no answer from Ambassador Robert Pelletreau so we can only present an interview with Yasir Adib 'Abd Rabbuh by our correspondent Mikhail Noev.

[Noev] Following the two rounds of direct American-Palestinian talks, how would you assess the progress of the discussions?

[Rabbuh] To begin with, I would like to recall that the first round of the direct PLO-U.S. dialogue took place on 6 December 1988, under the Reagan Administration. The whole conversation at that stage did not exceed 1 hour. The two delegations just set forth their viewpoints, but no more. However, the two delegations built a bridge for the future by clearly stating their wish to pursue the dialogue. This is how we reached the second meeting on 22 March 1989, under the Bush Administration. What was new about this meeting?

The meeting, which was repeated in Tunis, went on for approximately 5 hours, and the Palestinians submitted a specific document to the U.S. Government, a document explaining the PLO's position on the naturr and methods of resolving the Palestinian problem, as well as our views on the basic issues of the entire Arab-Israeli conflict.

During the meeting the American side elucidated the basic principles of its Middle East policy and expressed the idea that the Palestinian question should be settled in two stages. The first is supposed to include measures for calming down the violence between the Israel authorities and the participants in the Palestinian uprising, while the basic forms for the final settlement of the crisis should be developed in the second stage.

In addition to this, the Americans hinted that it might be possible for the PLO, along with other "distinguished Palestinian figures" from the occupied territories, to participate in the final negotiations concerning the fate of our motherland.

In both rounds of negotiations the American side ignored the idea of convening an effective international peace conference, and excluded the possibility of establishing an independent Palestinian state—which is a particularly significant fact under the present circumstances.

Actually, in emphasizing the necessity of reducing tension in the occupied territories, namely stopping the uprising, the American side declared its basic goal in the current round of negotiations, that is its intention to create the necessary political atmosphere for direct negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians of their own choice.

As for the uprising, we categorically declared, and this I confirmed during the meeting, that the uprising will stop only after the aggressor has withdrawn from the occupied territories. The Palestinian side still thinks that an international conference is the most appropriate framework for a comprehensive and just solution of the problem. For this reason I informed the American side of the PLO's refusal to participate in any kind of elections in the occupied territories as long as the occupation persists.

The difference in our views on the uprising in the occupied territories and on the methods of achieving peace is the prevailing factor at this stage. Despite the fact that the U.S. Government has recently adopted certain encouraging steps, its stand, as a whole, is still far removed from a real, lasting, and just solution of the Palestinian question.

During the Tunis meeting we clearly realized that the Americans have no clear idea on how the immediate crisis should be resolved and is totally confused about the possible results of the measures proposed in its own two-stage plan.

[Noev] In such a case, what role could this dialogue play in the overall settlement of the Middle East crisis?

[Rabbuh] The U.S. Government was forced to engage in a dialogue with the PLO by the pressure of the broad international response to the heroic Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. The bold peace initiatives of the Palestinians that were developed at the 19th Extraordinary Session of the Palestinian National Council and confirmed at the UN session greatly contributed to this.

Nevertheless, the Americans still failed to engage in a serious dialogue with the PLO on the development of a peaceful process in the Middle East. We have long since stated our readiness to adopt such a serious approach and we stated openly our views on the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole and of the Palestinian question, which is its most crucial aspect, in particular. The United States, however, is still proceeding very slowly and cautiously in this direction.

[Noev] Considering these circumstances, what are the chances of convening such a conference in the near future?

[Rabbuh] In our opinion, the objective opportunities for convening such a conference are more favorable than ever today. For this reason the PLO is working actively in this direction, based on the decisions of the latest session of the Palestinian National Council.

We firmly support the idea of convening this authoritative international forum on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations. We think that the participation of the five permanent Security Council member states would be an important, additional prerequisite for the success of this conference.

As a matter of fact, the idea of holding such a conference is increasingly welcomed and supported by world opinion. This improves the chances of the conference even more.

In this respect we also support the Soviet initiatives on the Middle East region submitted by Eduard Shevardnadze and we would like to speed up the appointment of a permanent UN representative on the Palestinian question.

Egypt

President Mubarak To Visit Iraq After Jordan

NC0905100789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0926 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Al-'Aqabah, 9 May (MENA)—Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif has disclosed that President Husni Mubarak will head for Iraq at the conclusion of his brief visit to Jordan.

In a statement to the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY, Al-Sharif said that, during his stay in Iraq, the president will hold talks with President Saddam Husayn on the latest Middle East developments. President Mubarak will also offer his condolences on the death of Iraqi Defense Minister Lieutenant General 'Adnan Khayrallah who died recently in a helicopter crash.

It is noteworthy that the Egyptian information minister is a member of the delegation accompanying President Mubarak on his current visit to Jordan.

Mubarak Interviewed on Economy, Arab Ties

JN0705185289 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 May 89 pp 14-16

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Editor in Chief Faysal Yusuf al-Marzuq in Cairo on 3 May]

[Text] [Al-Marzuq] Mr President: Some say that there have been three centers of power in Egypt: The first is the ever-growing religious movements; the second—and it has recently been eliminated—is the Army, represented by the presence of Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah; and the third is the legitimate power that you represent. You managed to convince the average Egyptian that the true power is in the hands of Husni Mubarak, the legitimate president of Egypt.

[Mubarak] Allow me, brother Faysal, to say that this information lacks precision. The Army has not been a force ruling Egypt. It seems that the people who are saying this are thinking with the mentality of the past. Such things no longer exist. The Armed Forces, throughout my rule, have never had a say in the ruling of Egypt. These are illusions and mere speculations. Those who make the speculations base their assessments on past happenings, and this has no foundation whatsoever.

Neither Abu Ghazalah nor anybody else has ever been a center of power. He could move nothing without my permission in accordance with the law and the constitution. The extremist religious groups form only a small percentage. They do not, and will never constitute a pressure force or a power center.

[Al-Marzuq] You decided to appoint Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah as assistant to the president. This position was first created by the late President Anwar al-Sadat although the Constitution does not provide for this position, and, consequently, its occupier has no specific duties. What is your comment?

[Mubarak] Political tradition is enough to give a position its legitimacy. If one reads the Constitution, one will find that the duties of the assistant to the president are confined to the tasks that the president assigns to him.

[Al-Marzuq] Some say that the position was created to contain the people who are meant to be removed from public work. They give as evidence the late Mamduh Salim, who was removed from public work as soon as he was appointed assistant to the president. What do you say to this?

[Mubarak] This is not true. I assign Abu Ghazalah many tasks.

[Al-Marzuq] Why, then, you did not appoint him to be vice president?

[Mubarak] I take the responsibility of the appointments I make. When I appoint an assistant to me, I proceed from my own thought, and it is not necessary for me to tell you the elements of this thought. I take many aspects and circumstances into consideration. Also, the duties are clear (tasks assigned to him by the president). I was a vice president, and I frankly tell you that if Al-Sadat had not assigned me tasks, I would have done nothing. I say it frankly. Al-Sadat entrusted to me more tasks than I could bear, and during his last days, he entrusted to me the greatest responsibilities.

[Al-Marzuq] Your decision to remove Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah from the Ministry of Defense and appoint him assistant to the president has triggered off wide Egyptian, Arab, and international reactions. Political and military sources described the decision as the most serious one made by President Mubarak since he assumed power. The same sources stressed that President Mubarak would not have sacrificed the field marshal had things between them not reached a deadlock in so far as discussions of public issues, especially military ones, are concerned. AL-ANBA' has had access to some events and circumstances that are said to have played a prominent role in introducing this change.

[Mubarak] What are these events and circumstances?

[Al-Marzuq] Although during the talks in Washington, certain Egyptian officials accepted the U.S. proposal to change the Egyptian military debts to the United States from debts to the U.S. Government into debts to merchant banks in order to unfreeze certain aid and special loans and provide liquidity from which it can provide aid to Egypt, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah rejected this. Abu Ghazalah's opinion was that the change of military loans into loans to merchant banks was a U.S. maneuver.

[Mubarak] Abu Ghazalah has nothing at all to do with debts. This subject concerns the Ministry of Economy and the central bank; and it is certainly none of the defense minister's business to intervene in the debts or the repayment of debts. I was the one who refused to change the debts to the status of debts to the merchant banks because the repayment date will coincide with the beginning of the repayment of the debts which were rescheduled in 1987.

This is in addition to the fact that the state's new obligations will require additional foreign currencies. This will also mean that the grace period will be 90 days and the aid will be halted if I do not repay; unlike the governmental debt, where repayment is more flexible.

[Al-Marzuq] Mr President, the other event is related to what has been reported about Abu Ghazalah's consent to give the United States a military base to the west of Cairo to store strategic weapons in anticipation of any operations that might threaten U.S. interests in the Middle East.

In return, the United States will leave for Egypt the stored weapons every 5 years and will also write off some of its military loans to Egypt. It is also related to what has been reported that when, during your recent visit to the United States, you insisted on rejecting the request to give the United States a base in Egypt, the U.S. officials confronted you with Abu Ghazalah's consent?

[Mubarak] In all countries, the defense minister does not have the power or authority to agree to give a foreign country a military base. No one—not even the president—has the right to decide on this subject alone. It must be presented to the people's deputies and their approval must be obtained. After all, Abu Ghazalah was a disciplined person and could not have taken such a measure on his own.

[Al-Marzuq] Mr President, the third event is Abu Ghazalah's objection to the idea of reducing the Armed Forces budget because this contradicts the needs of national security and his call for separating the Army budget from the state's general budget on the premise that the nature of conflict in the region demands a military force with a specific structure.

[Mubarak] The Army budget is part of the general budget. However, it is reviewed in a certain way and has its own audit body so that its details are not known to outsiders. These roles are followed in our region; and Abu Ghazalah did not discuss these subjects at all. All of this is unfounded.

[Al-Marzuq] Mr President, the fourth event is related to the field marshal's role in obtaining—illegally—U.S. military technology connected to the manufacture of missiles—that is a quantity of carbon originally prepared to protect spaceships, and this has exposed Egypt to U.S. pressures. Also, there is Abu Ghazalah's role in what has been reported about an Egyptian plan to build a factory for manufacturing chemical weapons.

[Mubarak] All of this is unfounded. These are just untrue rumors. The chemical factory which they talked about produces insecticides and perfumes. Next to it, there is a (U.S. factory) that produces similar products; and next to them there is a tank factory. I invite you, and I also invite them, to visit these factories.

[Al-Marzuq] Contrary to what prevailed in the Egyptian street that a comprehensive cabinet reshuffle would be carried out, the change occurred only in the defense minister's post. Why was there not a comprehensive cabinet reshuffle? What about reports that there will be such a reshuffle before next fall?

[Mubarak] In my view, any cabinet reshuffle must serve the public welfare. I do not make any change to create an uproar. Any change like the one you want will mean concealing something or preoccupying people to distract their attention from something else. I am not that kind of ruler. If an official in the public service fails to continue his production or services, I replace him immediately by issuing an ordinary decision, as I did when I replaced the defense minister. We are a state, which is governed by the constitution and which has constitutional institutions.

[Al-Marzuq] In your recent speech on May Day, you appealed to the citizens to control the birth rate, and you warned that the current population growth will harm the Egyptian people. But you did not give any solution to the problem?

[Mubarak] There is a national body for population that is trying to enlighten people. The mufti also issued a statement that birth control does not conflict with religion. I also affirm that a Muslim family of four people that has an income of 100 pounds a month is better than another Muslim family of 10 people that has the same income. What I want is an educated, strong, and healthy Muslim family. I do not want a collapsed, sick, and ignorant Muslim family, which is complicated and which is incapable of getting its food. The mufti also stressed this point in his statement.

[Al-Marzuq] The mufti's statement cannot solve the problem. People do not believe this because the Koran says: And He provides for him from sources he could never imagine. [Koranic verse]

[Mubarak] Prepare yourself and then rely on God. God Almighty has told us not to destroy ourselves.

[Al-Marzuq] Why do we not take certain measures? The government can refuse to extend health, educational, and supply assistance to any family, which has more than two or three children?

[Mubarak] There are many solutions and programs. But we cannot implement these programs unless the people realize the future danger that population growth poses.

[Al-Marzuq] There is more than one way to confront the drug problem in Egypt. Some people, including the interior minister, believe in the need to execute the drug dealer and the addict together. Others believe that the addict is a victim who should be treated. What is the best way to confront the problem?

[Mubarak] The Council of Ministers has concluded a study of a new strict drug law. The People's Assembly will discuss it, God willing.

[Al-Marzuq] The Egyptian people read in newspapers every day about confiscating ammounts of money from leading drug dealers. Why are these amounts of money not being used to establish advanced centers for treating the addicts?

[Mubarak] We are planning this.

[Al-Marzuq] In your last speech, you mentioned the heavy burdens that result from Egypt's indebtedness and how much the Egyptian economy is suffering from it. This makes us pose the following question: How will Egypt settle its debts?

[Mubarak] First of all, there are attempts to reschedule these debts. When we proceeded along this road, we knew that they would speak about certain measures, and that we must undertake an economic reform that will comprise a readjustment of some of the prices to make them reach a suitable level. For example, when I establish a power station, and I start selling electricity at prices less than what it costs me, then no one will agree to give me another loan to establish a second station.

When I readjust my prices so that they may be in line with the reforms, I take into consideration what is beneficial to the people. The people will not continue to consume electricity generated from a power station that was established at a cost of 100 million pounds at the same price as from a power station that costs 2 billion pounds. This is not possible.

With respect to a squeeze of expenditures, we are doing as much as possible. However, there are certain limits, particularly in the field of services. If pressures exceed certain limits, then the result will be a deterioration of these services. Then we will have to go to square one and tackle basic public utilities and maintain them. Generally speaking, we are squeezing our expenditures in terms of foreign currency abroad and on the domestic level. We held a conference approximately 1 month ago and we did not spend much on it. We will continue to look for sectors where we can squeeze our expenditures.

[Al-Marzuq] In your last interview with AL-ANBA', you rejected the idea of selling the public sector in view of the role it assumes of protecting those in the low-income bracket against the high cost of living. What one notices is that there is a general complaint about the high cost of living, price increases, and the devaluation of the Egyptian pound as compared with the hard currencies. Are you still determined not to sell the public sector?

[Mubarak] There are many reasons. First, there is population growth which necessarily means an increase in consumption. Then, there is the increase in world prices. All this affects the economy. Do not prices in Kuwait get readjusted?

[Al-Marzuq] Not much.

[Mubarak] This is because you have no increase in population, or an increase of consumption. Your consumption in Kuwait is somewhat constant. However, I have a problem of population growth. What is the population of Kuwait?

[Al-Marzuq] Around 1.5 million.

[Mubarak] Our population increases by that number every year. On the other hand, I cannot sell the major public sector industries, on the basis that, their revenues do not equal their size. They yield revenues, and the upshot of these revenues is to protect those in the low-income bracket. If I sell the public sector, prices will increase. If I increase wages, prices will increase more than the wage increases that were given. The citizens in the low-income bracket will suffer. This will force me to pay those in the low-income bracket the difference. What have I achieved?

What is important is to improve performance in the public sector, and to develop it in the interest of those who are in the low-income bracket, and achieve social justice, while encouraging the private sector, and providing it with incentives to effectively participate in the efforts for a comprehensive economic and social development to which we all aspire.

[Al-Marzuq] Mr President, recently you made several tours, including tours of Japan, some West European countries, and the United States. Did you submit during these visits an economic working paper on how to support the Egyptian economy and alleviate the burdens of its debts? Has this visit contributed to clarifying how these countries think about how to settle the Middle East issue?

[Mubarak] The principal objective of my visit to Japan had been to attend the funeral of the late Japanese Emperor Hirohito. I grasped the opportunity of my presence in Japan to hold a series of meetings with several world leaders who were there to attend the funeral. My meetings were within the framework of the

efforts Egypt exerts to push ahead the peace process in the Middle East, hold the international conference, and enhance bilateral cooperation with these countries.

I did not discuss any special demands with respect to the Egyptian economy. This is part of my nature. I only met with Japanese businessmen at their request so that they may discuss investment opportunities that are available in Egypt. I welcomed them.

The picture was different as far as my trip to the EC states is concerned. With these we maintain very close ties and economic cooperation. In Belgium, the Netherlands, France, and the FRG, I raised the issue of debts which overburden Third World nations, including Egypt. I discerned deep understanding from all of those with whom I met including the current EC President Jacques Delors. In fairness to him the man proved very understanding and he has an objective assessment of Third World debts. He argues that reduced trade with Third World countries would necessarily produce recession in industrialized nations.

It is Third World nations that are coming under economic pressure. Failure of Western nations to relieve the economic burdens of Third World nations due to their debts will lead to reduced imports by the latter from the former and thus produce increased stagnation and joblessness. A substantial part of the products of industrialized nations goes to Third World states. A loss in the purchasing power of the latter will produce disasters in the industrialized nations as a result of a pileup of unwanted goods. This analysis makes sense.

I have heard as much from President Mitterrand which I regard as an auspicious indication of a trend toward a resolution of the debt problem of the Third World. They now understand that the price will not be borne by us alone.

I also told the Germans and Chancellor Helmut Kohl that our imports from the FRG have been dwindling thanks to a dearth in our finances. We have no constant supply of foreign currency. Sometimes we have satisfactory financial resources and sometimes we are so hard pressed that we have to squeeze spending. And then we have been servicing our debts at a rate sometimes as high as 13 percent of the principal.

In Washington, the Palestinian question was the key topic of my talks and right now it happens to be the topical subject. In actual fact, I found the American Administration and the Congress extremely understanding of recent developments in the region. I also met with leaders of the American Jewry in New York and we had open, unrehearsed discussions. I answered whatever question was put to me logically and objectively. I believe, and I thank God for that, that they displayed understanding of the situation and Egypt's dynamic, positive policies—Egypt being the moving force behind the Middle East peace process.

[Al-Marzuq] Observers of current regional developments cannot help but draw parallels between President al-Sadat's initiative toward Israel and 'Arafat's peace initiatives. Suprisingly, though, Al-Sadat's initiative was greeted with a total Arab rejection. Your excellency the president, how do you explain that?

[Mubarak] The Egyptians, both on the official and popular levels, see Al-Sadat as one of the greatest men who have moved and benefited the Palelstinian cause. To be fair, if it were not for Al-Sadat and his initiative the cause would have remained static and we would not have been enjoying the peace which we have now. Were it not for the current peace what would have become of the Arab states?

The Arab countries could not have handled two concurrent wars—one with Israel and the Iraq-Iran war. Where would we have secured the weapons to fight two wars? Inevitably, we would have sought weapons from the East or the West. Chances are the West would not be forthcoming and the East would probably help out. No one gives arms free of charge. We would have had to pay billions.

Even if we did acquire arms, the other side would still have acquired comparable or even superior weaponry. We would have been captive to a vicious circle and gotten nowhere. Your arms suppliers will see to it that they give you only so much and in such quantities as not to beat Israel. The point I want to make is that we must be realistic. The only reasonable way to cope in our contemporary world is to be realistic.

[Al-Marzuq] 'Arafat managed to obtain the PLO's agreement to his acceptance of Israel's existence as a de facto state without any return from Israel so far. Are these concessions similar to the ones that Al-Sadat made in Camp David?

[Mubarak] Al-Sadat did not make concessions to Israel. Not all the Arabs were against him as some people are trying to propagate. Most of the Arab countries were obliged to follow the tide of rejection to avoid trouble. The Palestinian peace offensive is not concessions at all. Rather, it is a full understanding of how to deal with reality.

[Al-Marzuq] But is building Israeli settlements under the shadow of the Camp David accords not a kind of concession?

[Mubarak] Building Israeli settlements was against the accords, and is considered an explicit violation of them. At the time of the building, Egypt registered its open protest against this violation. How can Al-Sadat be accused of making concessions regarding an issue which neither he nor the accords have anything to do with? Suppose that Egypt did not sign the Camp David

accords, would that prevent Israel from proceeding with its settlement policy? We know, however, that Israel demolished all its settlements in Sinai before it withdrew from there.

[Al-Marzuq] Some people also believe that Al-Sadat was able to take a firm and strong stand concerning the issue of settlements—namely, he could have refrained from signing the accords unless the United States forces Israel to stop building settlements.

[Mubarak] You may be surprised by my saying that Washington cannot force Israel to do this. Although President Carter attacked Israel, it continued to build settlements. The influence of the Jewish community in the United States is very strong, and there is no reason for us to ignore this fact, fool ourselves, and accuse Al-Sadat of things he did not do. Al-Sadat did not make concessions. Israel is continuing building settlements and no state, resolution, or agreement is able to stop it.

The Camp David agreement is not an international treaty. It is a framework, in two papers, determining the principles of a solution to the region's question. It is known that the talks in Camp David between Al-Sadat and Begin under the auspices of U.S. President Carter almost fell apart. President Al-Sadat telephoned me from Camp David and literally told me: There is no point, I will pack my suitcases and return to Cairo. He was actually about to return had President Carter not informed him that he managed to obtain Begin's agreement on some important points and that they had to quickly register them so that negotiations would not return to point zero again.

The three parties—the United States, Egypt, and Israel—agreed to register those points in two separate papers, the first for resolving the Egyptian-Israeli problems, and the other included general principles to solve the Palestine question, which the Palestinians can accept or reject without coercion or pressure. We found that those principles could be developed in the Egyptian-Israeli talks in Camp David.

We agreed on the first paper and translated it into a formula of an Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement. On the other hand, the second paper related to the Palestine question was rejected by the Palestinian side, and we announced that we would not negotiate on behalf of them. It ended at that point. Frankly speaking, if we had managed to implement the principles contained in this paper, we would have been in a far better situation than the current one.

This, then, is the Camp David agreement. It is not an international agreement, but only a framework. Had we not adopted them, we would have currently begun from the beginning, from point zero.

[Al-Marzuq] Mr President, the United States and Israel still reject the international conference as a formula to resolve the question despite the international consensus on accepting it?

[Mubarak] For the record, and this is not to defend the United States, although it has not clearly or finally accepted the international conference formula, the United States has not rejected it. We know the nature of relations between the United States and Israel—and this is not of my business. However, what I can confirm is that the international conference is the ideal formula for finding a just and comprehensive solution to the question. It is a golden opportunity for Israel which it must seize in order to achieve an Israeli-Arab reconciliation, from which Israel will be the first to benefit.

[Al-Marzuq] Your Excellency, do you not believe that the intransigence of Shamir's current government and its inflexible stand in rejecting the Palestinian state will abort peace initiatives in the region and lead it into a deadlock?

[Mubarak] The road is unblocked as some people like to imagine. The current dialogue constitutes a step on the road which will be followed by positive steps. We cannot shut the door and begin to search for an entrance afterwards.

[Al-Marzuq] Mr President, the Palestinians reject the idea of confederation with Jordan?

[Mubarak] They have announced their acceptance of the confederation during the recent Palestine National Council [PNC] session; and they even adopted a resolution in this regard. They demand an independent state first and a confederation with Jordan afterwards. I believe this subject can be best resolved by the Palestinians and Jordanians at the negotiating table because it is wrong to think that we can solve all the problems at one time with one decision.

Insistence on this subject will complicate things and prevent the convening of the international conference. What we want is that for all sides concerned with the issue to sit at the negotiating table within the framework of the international conference and then we can move to direct dialogue. I believe that if we make such a start, we will be able to reach a solution that will satisfy all sides.

[Al-Marzuq] Mr President, what do you say to the Palestinian factions which oppose the directions of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the PNC resolutions—a rejection that might bring setbacks to the Palestinian peace attack and give winning cards to Israel?

[Mubarak] I say to them: Close your ranks because you have no alternative to the peace process. I also ask them about the alternative available solutions and their ability to implement them. This I say with the knowledge that

all states—including the United States—are unable to force Israel into accepting the international conference. I also say to them that logic requires them to get what is possible and available. I believe that continuous rejection means giving everything away. We cannot lose the possible for the sake of the impossible.

[Al-Marzuq] Your Excellency the President, when AL-ANBA' last interviewed you, you said you were prepared to visit Israel if this should contribute to a solution of the problem. During your U.S. visit, you turned down an American suggestion that you meet with Shamir. Do you not see a contradiction between your first offer and subsequent negative response?

[Mubarak] At first glance, yes. What I said, however, was that I was prepared to go to Israel and meet with Shamir if this should help propel the peace process forward. President Bush has made a statement along these lines. He said that he would be prepared to visit the Middle East if he thought such a trip would advance the peace process in the region with the proviso that the visit was well-prepared.

I was really interested in making the visit if I thought it would be helpful. A solution necessarily means that I have to talk to the other side. It is pointless to refuse to talk and this practice has proved ineffective and useless. By contrast, direct talks and negotiations have proven effective and useful in sorting out the most complex problems. The United States did not refuse to sit down for talks with Vietnam. One can cite numerous examples of conflicts that wars have failed to resolve but were settled at the negotiating table.

We have sat at the negotiating table with Israel and the result was a resolution of the problem of occupied Egyptian territory. Now there is not a single Israeli soldier on an inch of Egyptian soil. In order for us to complete a resolution of the issue via the international conference we must sit with Shamir and Israel's leaders for negotiations. We will not negotiate with ourselves.

At some point in the future all the parties will come to realize the need to join the process. The recent developments and changes in the region demonstrate that the one option open to us is just and equitable peace for all the states and peoples of the region.

Proceeding from this rationale, I said I was prepared to visit Israel and meet with Shamir. But the following day, he declared his opposition to the international conference and uttered his three nos—no to the international conference, no to an exchange of territory for peace, and no price for Mubarak's visit.

Ironically, it was the Arabs who typically said no. We had said no and turned down everything since 1948. The tables have now turned—we are saying yes, they are saying no. I only hope we will not continue to say yes and they no for another 40 years. Now you know why I refused to make the visit.

[Al-Marzuq] Opinions differ vis-a-vis the three Arab groupings—the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], and the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA]. They are regarded by some as being a prop for the Arab League, while some others fear they herald the demise of the Arab League. Your excellency the president: Can the present inaction of the Arab League be attributed to the creation of these groupings?

[Mubarak] I disagree. The member states of the GCC are homogeneous. This is not to say, however, that they have attributes that set them apart from other Arab states. They have not withdrawn into a shell away from the Arab world. Although we are outside this grouping, we maintain the best of relations with its constituent members. Not under any groupings or designation can I forget our brethren in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, or the Untied Arab Emirates.

These groupings only crystallize ideas and roles. I will tell you that these three Arab groupings work within the framework of the Arab League. This applies to the ACC, of which Egypt is a member, althought Egypt's Arab League membership is frozen. As far as we are concerned this is not an issue. Some Arab states do not belong to any of the three groupings. It does not mean that these are working outside the Arab frame. All Arab action is channeled through the Arab League. A case in point is an Arab League-sponsored meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss Lebanon.

Certain problems, however, can be solved in the context of these groupings. A Gulf problem, for instance, can be solved within the GCC. If this proves impossible, it can be referred to the Arab League.

[Al-Marzuq] Iraq, which is a member of the ACC, has recognized the legitimacy of General Michel 'Awn's government. Will this recognition have any impact on the cooperation among the four ACC countries to find a solution to the Lebanese problem?

[Mubarak] Why did you choose to speak about Iraq in its capacity as an ACC member and not as a member of the big Arab family? The basic objective of the ACC is economic. Your question moves us away from the nature of the ACC. The Lebanese concern is an Arab concern, and is not the prerogative of a specific grouping. It is a worry for every grouping and for every country which is outside these groupings. Your question implies that the Arab groupings are bodies which are dissociated from the Arab League. This is not true.

[Al-Marzuq] In your speech on Labor Day on 1 May, you affirmed Egypt's constant stand calling for the departure of all foreign parties from Lebanon. Mr President, which are these foreign parties which should leave Lebanon?

[Mubarak] All the foreign parties. Do you know which foreign parties are in Lebanon?

[Al-Marzuq] Israel, Syria, and others.

[Mubarak] Then they must leave. I have repeated this time and again. Not long ago, we said: Take your hands off Lebanon. Let the Lebanese sit at the negotiating table, and they are capable of solving their own problems.

[Al-Marzuq] AL-ANBA' is convinced that the departure of the foreign forces from Lebanon will be the beginning of the solution to the Lebanese problem. Do you believe that the solution necessarily dictates a reassessment of the formula on the current Lebanese structure which is based on the sectarian distribution of key posts?

[Mubarak] There will be no solution, and you will not be able to make people there speak frankly unless all the influential foreign forces leave Lebanon. Then, the country will remain the responsibility of its inhabitants, and the problem will become their responsibility. There will also be no pressures. Then, all the Arab countries can cooperate to help Lebanon rise again. The removal of foreign influence from Lebanon will give the Lebanese parties the opportunity to deal with the reality in Lebanon in their own way and with their free will.

[Al-Marzuq] Mr President, what are the latest developments in Egyptian-Libyan relations?

[Mubarak] There is nothing new in this respect. Calm prevails. There are no problems. All we want from them is good neighborly relations. We do not insult them, and they do not insult us. The situation is good. There are no problems, no border violations or operations. I do not ask for more than this.

[Al-Marzuq] Has not the incident of the Libyan pilot and his aircraft affected your calm relations with Libya?

[Mubarak] The incident of the aircraft is a simple one. What happened is that the Libyan pilot, so that he may escape, asked his crew to step down in Al-'Uwaynat. He told them he will carry out a test in the air, and flew with the plane to Egypt where he asked for political asylum. Of course, I cannot return the pilot or refuse him political asylum because in that case he would be executed. Handing him over is tantamount to sentencing him to death.

[Al-Marzuq] Within the framework of this story, how does Your Excellency explain the Sudanese claim that the plane was Sudanese?

[Mubarak] Let us speak frankly. We have learned of a telephone conversation between Abu Bakr Yunus and Sudanese officials, during which Abu Bakr Yunus asked Sudan to declare that the plane was a gift from Libya. We waited until the next day, when the Sudanese contacted us and announced that the plane was one of two planes, which were Libyan gifts to Sudan. Naturally, this is not of our business.

However, I will not return the pilot, and this is not because I want to keep him. I am not interested in 1, 2, or 10 pilots, and to prove this I say that the four pilots who escaped with MiG-24 aircraft and landed in our western desert were returned to Libya because they did not request asylum. But, now that one has requested asylum, I cannot turn down his request.

[Al-Marzuq] Will you return the plane?

[Mubarak] When the investigation into the event is complete, I will return it.

[Al-Marzuq] The abrogation of the joint defense pact between Sudan and Egypt was accompanied by contradictory statements. What were the circumstances that accompanied the abrogation of this agreement?

[Mubarak] Sudan wanted to abrogate it, and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi wanted to abrogate it. I said to him: Fine, you abrogate it, because I will not be the first to abrogate it.

[Al-Marzuq] Would this subject not have repercussions against Egypt?

[Mubarak] Against us, no; this is certainly untrue. On the contrary, this agreement imposed obligations on me toward them if they were subjected to any aggression. They always thought that any aggression against them will come from the south, and that Ethiopia will be behind it. In actual fact, there is no Ethiopian aggression or anything of the kind.

[Al-Marzuq] Certain Sudanese officials have said that the brotherhood charter between the two countries came mainly to substitute for the joint defense pact between Egypt and Sudan. They believe that the pact was signed at a time when the Sudanese people's will was usurped. What do you think about this, Mr President?

[Mubarak] What charter are you talking about?

[Al-Marzuq] The brotherhood charter.

[Mubarak] I do not know if such a charter exists. A charter must be presented to Parliament to receive the approval of the people's deputies. But, what you talk about was no more than a joint statement issued after Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to Egypt.

[Al-Marzuq] Mr President, frankly, what is the state of Egyptian-Sudanese relations?

[Mubarak] The Sudanese foreign minister was here with me. Before him, I received a ministerial delegation. We do not have specific problems with Sudan. There may be differences or problems among certain Sudanese forces.

[Al-Marzuq] What do you see as the solution to this problem among them? What is your viewpoint regarding the way out of Sudan's crisis.

[Mubarak] They are better aware of the solution to their problems. They have to hold more dialogue and show more solidarity among themselves. I am certain that they are able to do this.

[Al-Marzuq] From time to time, Israel threatens to strike at Iraqi military installations and nuclear programs. What will be Your Excellency's stand if Israel carries out these threats?

[Mubarak] According to my personal information, there are no hostile Israeli intentions against Iraq.

[Al-Marzuq] But Israeli leaders have made statements that military action will be carried out against Iraq if it continues its nuclear program.

[Mubarak] My information and the statements I have heard from them up to today affirm that Israel has no intention to strike at anything in Iraq.

[Al-Marzuq] Let us assume hypothetically that they do such a thing, what will be your stand then?

[Mubarak] Make no assumptions. In general, if a reaction is required to a hypothetical assumption, I will assess the stand by myself without announcing it to the press.

[Al-Marzuq] Have you discussed the issue of ending Iraqi-Syrian differences through your meetings with President Saddam Husayn?

[Mubarak] Iraqi-Syrian differences are deep. However, we can pave the way for resolving these differences through cooperation among all Arab countries and the two sides' good intentions. I believe that if major Arab efforts are exerted, we can reach very good results because it is painful to see that differences between two Arab states have reached this level.

[Al-Marzuq] It has been reiterated that you will visit Saudi Arabia on Monday and that you will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Riyadh. Is this correct?

[Mubarak] This is baseless. I welcome a visit to my brother, His Majesty King Fahd, as he is a brother and dear friend. And I harbor appreciation of and respect for him. I knew his majesty before 1975, and my relations with him have become stronger during this period. I understand him well and harbor great appreciation for him.

I also welcome a meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. Nothing between us prevents such a meeting. We are brothers-in-arms. He was here in Heliopolis when he was a pilot at the Inshas Air Base with the rank of captain while I was an instructor at the Bilbays Air Base. Inshas is 7 km from Bilbays. I was senior to him in the Air Force. We met as presidents in Kuwait. I harbor no rancor toward him.

I truly regret and am saddened by the state of relations between the two countries that were partners in the October war and experienced unity. Praise be to God, media vituperations have stopped between the two countries. I consider this a good and positive step on the path toward restoring the normal, historical relations between the Egyptian and Syrian peoples. I hope that we do not vilify one another when we differ.

I cannot understand or imagine the president of a sisterly Arab country heaping curses on another president and his people. These things deepen grudges among people. This does not happen in a civilized country. I hope that this bad phenomenon will disappear from all our countries. We are Islamic countries, and Islam is a religion with great values and principles. Despite this, we ignore these values and vilify one another. I consider this a catastrophe.

Praise be to God, we have bypassed this stage. I hope that we will not return to it under any circumstances. I also hope that all differences among any two Arab states will be removed. I hope that relations of cordiality, love, and cooperation will prevail for the sake of general Arab interests, because we are examples to be followed by our people. In any case, there is nothing between me and President al-Asad. The day will come when things between us will return to normal.

[Al-Marzuq] During the visit His Majesty King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, paid to Cairo, it was reported that Saudi Arabia will grant Egypt the sum of $1.6 billion and that it gave the Saudi investors a green light to prop up the Egyptian economy. However, a statement by the Saudi Royal Court following the visit denied press reports in this regard. Mr President, is there a comment?

[Mubarak] The one who spread this rumor wanted to drive a wedge between the Egyptian people and King Fahd. Some have even rumored that King Fahd will grant us $2 billion. I am surprised by these rumors and wonder: Why are there such rumors, which only lead to confusion? I do not want anyone to be taken in by rumors. I also stress that if I needed anything, I would not hesitate to request it from King Fahd, who would not hesitate to respond.

[Al-Marzuq] Some observers, Mr President, forgive the people who spoke about this, considering the current economic situation in Egypt.

[Mubarak] I keep stressing to people the importance of work. Work first, then search for what you need. I see no alternative to work. Let us work, feed ourselves, and seek assistance only when there is an ordeal. It will be a grave mistake to expect others to feed us. We as a state cannot adopt this as a principle.

I would like to stress that King Fahd will not hesitate to help us in a real crisis, no matter how many times we need him or Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, or any other capable Arab state. All of them will not hesitate to help us. This really happened when, for pressing reasons, I requested help from my brother, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, who immediately responded. The same happened with my brother, His Majesty King Fahd. We, too, did not and will not hesitate to support our brothers.

[Al-Marzuq] Perhaps some hoped that Egypt's foreign debts would turn into Arab debts.

[Mubarak] The matter is neither easy nor that simple. Doing so involves dangers, and I do not want to transform my debts in such a way. You are viewing things from a journalistic perspective, while I view them differently as there are other international problems.

[Al-Marzuq] Reports stressed that during King Fahd's visit the conditions of the Military Industrialization Organization were discussed. What were the results of talks?

[Mubarak] We did discuss this subject, we are still discussing it, and I do not think there are complications or difficulties.

[Al-Marzuq] Has a date been fixed for the emergency Arab summit in Morocco?

[Mubarak] I have not yet received specific information on the date. All I know is that the summit will be held within the last 10 days of May.

African Bank To Grant $50 Million Loan

JN0805170989 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 May 89 p 8

[By Ahmad Hashim]

[Text] Electricity and Energy Minister Mahir Abazah has stated that the African Development Bank has agreed to grant Egypt a $50 million loan with easy terms to finance the establishment of the Al-'Arish power station that will supply electricity to tourist and environment projects, as well as to the new urban communities in the area.

The minister said that the bank also agreed to offer a $5 million nonrefundable grant that will be used in carrying out feasibility studies for the project to link the Egyptian and Zairean electricity grids.

Minister Details Housing Project, Cost

JN0805153189 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 May 89 p 1

[Excerpts] Hasaballah Muhammad al-Kafrawi, minister of housing, utilities, and new urban communities, has stated that the construction of 250,000 housing units will begin in June and will be completed within an 18 month period. He added that the sum of 1.1 billion pounds has been secured for the construction of these housing units as loans with easy terms and at an interest rate of 4 percent to be repaid over a 30 year period. [passage omitted]

The minister said that agreement was also reached to build 110,000 housing units during the first year of the second development plan, thus making the total number of houses to be built 360,000 at a cost of 3.24 billion pounds, of which 1.6 billion pounds come from loans with easy terms. He added that all this has taken place under President Mubarak's directives and all these housing units will be handed over at the end of 1991. [passage omitted]

France's President Mitterrand Telephones Mubarak

NC0605124789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—French President Francois Mitterrand telephoned President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning. They exchanged views on the Palestinian issue. President Mitterrand also briefed President Mubarak on the results of the visit of Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, to France.

Nominated Ambassadors, Consuls General Named

NC0805053189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 7 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has approved changes affecting the Egyptian ambassadors and consuls abroad. The changes involve the chiefs of Egyptian diplomatic missions in 15 European, Asian, African, and Latin American states, in addition to two consulates.

Accordingly, Ambassador Ra'uf Ghunaym has been nominated Egyptian ambassador to West Germany. He now occupies the post of adviser to the prime minister. Ambassador Husayn Hassunah, who now occupies the post of director of the foreign minister's bureau, has been nominated Egyptian ambassador to Yugoslavia.

Ambassador Nabil al-Sillawi, who now occupies the post of director of the African Department at the Foreign Ministry, has been nominated as Egyptian ambassador to Indonesia; Husayn Musharrafah, presently the director of the Information Department at the Foreign Ministry, has been nominated as ambassador to Ireland; Ambassador Yusuf Sharara has been nominated as consul general in Montreal in Canada; and Ambassador Mustafa 'Abd-al-Fattah has been nominated as consul general in Dubai. This is in addition to 11 others who have been nominated as ambassadors to various other states.

The Foreign Ministry has completed the preparation of these changes affecting the chiefs of Egyptian diplomatic missions abroad and has submitted them to the president for approval.

Soviet Official Arrives for Committee Meetings

NC0905053689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2156 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—Abdulayev, assistant Soviet foreign minister [title as received], arrived in Cairo this evening at the head of a delegation on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

The Soviet official will participate in the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Soviet committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation, which will begin in Cairo on Wednesday [10 May] under the chairmanship of Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Mr Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, who will arrive on Cairo on Tuesday.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC0905114489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 9 May 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—Budimir Loncar, Yugoslav federal secretary of foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo at noon today for a brief visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement he expressed his pleasure at visiting Cairo, noting that Cairo is considered a center of the Nonaligned Movement.

He said that he will hold talks in Egypt on the Nonaligned Movement's summit conference due to be held in Belgrade early in September. He concluded by noting that his visit will provide an opportunity to discuss bilateral relations, including economic cooperation.

He was received at the airport by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

'Abd al-Majid stated that he and the Yugoslav foreign minister will exchange views on all proposed topics for the agenda of the nonaligned summit, foremost among which are the issues of direct concern to us and how the Nonaligned Movement can develop so that it may keep pace with international developments. [passage omitted]

Libya

JANA Cites 'Arafat on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Call

LD0805104389 Tripoli JANA in English 1801 GMT 7 May 89

[Text] Tunis, Al Ma' [May] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Yasir 'Arafat rejected the call by the speaker of the Iranian Parliament to assassinate American, British or French nationals, hijack Western aircraft and destroy Western institutions in retaliation for the savage massacres by the Zionist terrorists in occupied Palestine.

In a statement in Tunis today, Yasir 'Arafat said that he totally rejects the call of the speaker of the Iranian Parliament to assassinate American, French and British nationals.

Human Rights Committee Formed in Tripoli

LD0505225989 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 5 May 89

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 5 May, JANA—The creation of the Libyan Arab Human Committee in the era of the masses was announced today out of the Libyan Arab people's belief in human rights and in the need to emphasize them and preserve them after they were reinforced with the measures taken during last year by the brother leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

These measures included the release of prisoners and the tearing up of the lists of those forbidden to travel and other measures which emphasize man's freedom and dignity. These principles were again confirmed in the great green document of human rights in the era of the masses. This was followed by the law reinforcing, emphasizing, and entrenching freedom. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Telephones Syria's Hafiz al-Asad

JN0805204089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Gentlemen: We have just received the following news item: President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call today from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution in Libya. They talked about the Arab situation and bilateral issues.

Algeria's Bendjedid Thanked for Prisoner Release

LD0505210589 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] Tripoli, 5 May, JANA—The brother leader of the revolution has sent a message of thanks and gratitude to President Chadli Bendjedid on the occasion of the release of a group of Libyan Arab nationals who had been convicted for various criminal offenses in Algeria.

Mauritania

New Curfew Times Announced in Nouakchott

LD0805213189 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] I have just received the following news: The Ministry of Interior, Posts, and Communications has learned that it has been decided to impose a curfew from 2200 until 0600, instead of 2000 hours until 0600. This curfew is restricted to the political and economic capitals, Nouadhibou and Nouakchott.

Taya Receives French Presidential Adviser

AB0705193989 Paris AFP in French 1752 GMT 7 May 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 7 May (AFP)—Mr Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, adviser to French President Francois Mitterrand for African affairs, arrived this afternoon in Nouakchott where he was immediately received by the Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouyia Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

It will be recalled that according to reliable sources in the two capitals, President Francois Mitterrand sent 2 emissaries, 1 to Nouakchott and the other to Dakar, following the Senegalese-Mauritanian incidents which left more than 200 dead in the 2 countries.

Senegalese Nationals Reportedly Being Held

AB0805105889 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 8 May 89

[From the "Network Africa" program hosted by Neil Curry]

[Text] We start this morning with the continuing problems between West African neighbors, Senegal and Mauritania. Their problems had started over a dispute on their countries' border and led to violence against each other's expatriate nationals.

Well, I am sure you've been following these stories of efforts to repatriate both Senegalese citizens from Mauritania and Mauritanians from Senegal. Well, the whole operation ran into difficulties over the weekend just as our correspondent, Elizabeth Blunt, was traveling from Mauritania's capital, Nouakchott, to Dakar in Senegal. She eventually made it to Dakar, and on the line I asked her about her journey:

[Begin recording] [Blunt] I came down in an ordinary bush taxi, a share taxi, with a Guinean family who had been doing a bit of small trading in Mauritania but were now frightened and wanted to leave because they felt there was such strong feeling against West Africans, Africans in general. And even before we left the taxi park in Nouakchott, the policeman checked inside who we were, and when we said we were Guinean and one British, he said that was okay, he was looking for Senegalese.

[Curry] How did he actually do his checking? Was he polite? Did he ask to look at passports?

[Blunt] He was perfectly polite but he wanted to see identity cards. And after the first couple of checks—because this happened all the way down the road—what happened was that the driver, who was a Moorish Mauritanian, was an extremely nice man and very helpful, he simply kept all our identity cards or passports at the front of the taxi and he gave them to the official each time and explained "pour la Guinee"—they have come from Guinea—and handed over my passport as well, which was a British passport.

And so we were let go through. And we were let go through all the way until about 50 km before the border when, suddenly, there across the road was a roadblock, not an official roadblock. It was by some people from the nomad encampments round about who had cut down some thorn bushes and piled them across the road with some brightly-colored cloth draped across them. And they had big wooden sticks and they were stopping all the travelers going south to the border and checking what nationality they were.

We were allowed to go through but the small bus in front of us, the minibus which had a lot of families in it, when we went through, they'd all been made to get down and I don't know what happened to them. I am sure that nobody of Senegalese nationality was being allowed through.

[Curry] And when you actually made it to the border, Liz, I understand it was closed. So what happened there, you obviously got through.

[Blunt] Well, it wasn't officially closed. What happened was that at the check at the entry to Rosso, the border town, the policeman asked what I was doing there and I explained that I was going to Dakar; I was the BBC correspondent, and he said: Ah journalist. And then a policeman got crammed into the taxi which was already more than full, to go and take us to the police station in Nouakchott. Anyway, they drove off and I saw the chief of police who put me into his car, took me to the ferry landing, put me in a pirogue—put me in a canoe—and pushed me off fairly quickly.

I left the country very fast. And it seemed strange to me, there was nobody at all waiting at the ferry landing. When I got to the other side people told me mine was the only boat to come across that morning and that other people were not being allowed to leave.

They were being taken to some sort of holding point in the Mauritanian town of Rosso and not being allowed to cross. And later I talked with Red Cross officials who said yes, they had heard the same thing and that yesterday, Sunday, one of their people was going up to Rosso to find out exactly what was going on because they had heard that 700 to 800 people were in some kind of holding point. [end recording]

Morocco

Arab League Summit Proposed for 23-24 May

LD0805233889 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 May 89

[Ministry of Information communique]

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II this afternoon, 8 May 1989, at the Royal Court in Rabat received the ambassador of the Arab League member countries accredited to Morocco.

His majesty briefed the Arab diplomats on the results of his contacts with his fellow heads of Arab countries on holding an emergency Arab summit in Morocco. His majesty the king proposed convening the summit meeting in Casablanca on 23 and 24 May; the summit will be preceded by a meeting of foreign ministers on 21 May.

The meeting was attended by Ahmed Osman, spokesman for the House of Representatives; Abdellatif Filali, foreign minister; Ahmed Reda Guedira and Ahmed Ben Soudah, advisers to the king; and Driss Basri, minister of the interior and information.

King Hassan II Grants Pardons on 'Id al-Fitr

LD0605214289 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] A statement from the Ministry of Justice:

On the occasion of the happy 'Id al-Fitr of 1409h, corresponding to 1989 A.D., our master His Majesty King Hassan II issued his orders to:

—Pardon 230 prisoners from the remainder of their imprisonment period;
—Reduce the imprisonment period of 138 detainees;
—Pardon the full or remainder of the imprisonment period but preserving the fines for 74 persons;
—Pardon the imprisonment or fine punishment for 25 persons; and,
—Commute life imprisonment to fixed term imprisonment for one person.

May God preserve our master, the imam, for this nation and keep him a source of compassion and mercy and may God return such ids with victory, and make him happy with his crown prince, Prince Sidi Mohamed, and Prince Moulay Rachid and all the honorable royal family.

More Pardons Granted

LD0705011989 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] A statement from the Ministry of Information:

On the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, His Majesty King Hassan II issued his orders to pardon all employees of the state, localities, and the quasi-public sector who were sentenced or put under observation because of their participation in the disturbances of public security during the strikes of 10-11 April 1979 and 20 June 1981.

May God give our master, the imam, long life and preserve him as He preserved the Koran, and may God make him always a source of compassion and mercy and make him satisfied with his royal highness the crown prince, Prince Sidi Mohamed, and Prince Moulay Rachid and all the honorable royal family.

Western Sahara

Polisario To Release 200 Moroccan Prisoners

LD0805143189 Algiers APS in English 1319 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Rome, 8 May (APS)—The Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] decided to release 200 Moroccan prisoners to encourage the peace process with Morocco, the Sahrawi premier, Mahfoud Ali Beida announced in Rome.

In a press conference, the Sahrawi leader said that this "humanitarian gesture" is an answer to a request of the Italian officials.

Mahfoud Ali Beida, who was received by Giulio Andreotti, the Italian foreign minister, said that he asked Italy to "play a role" to contribute to iron out difficulties of the present step of the negotiations.

The Sahrawi premier is staying in Rome in the frame of a week of friendship and solidarity with the Sahrawi people organized by the municipality of Rome.

KUNA Interviews Hammadi on Visit to France
LD0505173589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1427 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] Paris, May 5 (KUNA)—Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi said on Friday his recent talks here tackled re-assessment of economic cooperations between Iraq and France and means of resolving "certain suspended issues."

Interviewed by KUNA following his three-day official visit, Dr Hammadi emphasized that Iraq and France have established long-term economic ties based on mutual interests. "For this reason, it was necessary for the two countries to re-evaluate these ties from time to time," he said.

After the cease-fire with Iran, he went on, Iraq started reconstruction of war-devastated areas and gearing up development in various fields, especially industrial ones.

This was the centerpiece of his discussions with President Francois Mitterrand last Tuesday, Dr Hammadi told KUNA, and added "there was complete agreement and re-affirmation of principles of bilateral economic cooperation with a pledge from France to effectively contribute to Iraq's developmental programs."

The Iraqi minister pointed out that the technical delegation accompanying him has held lengthy discussions with French government officials on many of suspended technical issues and managed to resolve greatest part of them.

On the Iraqi demand for rescheduling Baghdad's debts due to France, Dr Hamadi briefly said, "a fairly good progress had been made on this issue and the two sides decided to solve it."

He said his talks with the French finance minister, Pierre Beregovoy, confined to financial and economic matters only, while deliberations with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, dealt with bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

He indicated that he had explained to President Mitterrand Iraq's stances towards Geneva-based peace negotiations with Iran, the Lebanese crisis and the efforts of the Arab League six-man committee for resolving it, besides Iraqi-French cooperation in political spheres.

Dr Hammadi said he found "full understanding on the French side to Iraq's position regarding the Lebanese conflict." The two sides agreed upon the need to secure Lebanon's unity and to avert the Arab country threats of partition Hammadi disclosed.

On the recent visit to Paris by Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, concluded on Thursday, the Iraqi minister said he felt "deep pleasure" among [words indistinct] officials for 'Arafat's visit.

The visit, he added, was also welcomed by the entire Arab world and had boosted France's records and poltical image in the region.

On the forthcoming summit meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council, ACC, which comprises, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and Yemen Arab Republic, Dr Hammadi said the meeting would focus on internal structural organization of the ACC's General Secretariat and the appointment of an ACC secretary general.

He said there were no proposals on admittance of new Arab states to the ACC membership, but he noticed that the gathering is open to all Arab countries.

Dr. Hammadi is scheduled to leave Paris later today en route back home.

Industry Minister Discusses Military Production
JN0805160989 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 May 89 p 7

[Interview with Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, by Faruq al-Shadhili in Baghdad—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Shadhili] How would you assess the Egyptian pavilion at the Baghdad military fair?

[Hasan] The answer is obvious. Our Egyptian brothers have made real headway in the field of military industries. They showed the way for all of the Arab states in this area, which is a source of delight to us. This is because the advanced nations used to assume that they have a monopoly over such industries.

[Shadhli] Egyptian-Iraqi cooperation is long-standing. Has it lived up to the dream of pan-Arab security, and has a minimum been achieved?

[Hasan] I believe we are past the minimum level both in Egypt and Iraq. We are now producing all the ammunition required for artillery and armor. We also produce armor, artillery, and airborne bombs. As a matter of fact, we are climbing the ladder of this industry quite fast. Egyptian-Iraqi coordination is, in my opinion, at an advanced stage now. But there is still a way to go before it gets into full swing.

I think that we have done well not to delay the Egyptian program of production in Iraq. This is because we have seen to it that the military industrialization program in the two countries turns out quality articles—a prerequisite for success.

A weapon produced in Iraq does not preclude its manufacture in Egypt. We have taken some steps along the road to complementarity, having gone past the first stage

of quality production. Pan-Arab security should be advanced by complementarity between Iraq and Egypt. The industry will be able to secure Arab requirements for many types of weapons.

The problem is that many Arab countries are still ignorant about the advances made by the military industry in Egypt and Iraq. Certain Arab states do know but purchase elsewhere. Not that we are annoyed, but we must familiarize the Arab and other countries with our capabilities, especially since arms production in Iraq and Egypt is not profit-oriented. The policy governing our sales is centralized by the state.

[Al-Shadhili] How do you see the prospects of an Arab military industry away from the security, political aspect of the industry?

[Hasan] I do not see the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] as a step as some would like to call it. I regard it a gigantic move of importance for the Arab security and Arab economic clout that will make itself visible within the Arab League. For quite some time now, the Arab nation has lost its bearings and has been in conflict with itself. You see some Arab countries meddling in the affairs of other Arab countries.

If the ACC has an economic thrust, there have also been political moves between Iraq, Jordan, and Egypt. In international fora the four component members of the ACC see eye to eye. Thus the economic cooperation has been a spinoff of at least 10 years of political cooperation. The four countries have been following one political line that has culminated in a united economic effort. It must be asked if there are military industrialization projects within the framework of the ACC.

The matter has not come up, but when it does, all the members, most of all Iraq, will prove responsive. We will welcome any military industries project among the four countries. But it is important that we determine the nature of the project and how useful it will be to the four. In any case, Iraq will keep working to invigorate and support all forms of military industry, either individually or in concert with the other Arab countries or those of the ACC.

[Al-Shadhili] You are the minister of industry as well. Can there be cooperation among the ACC states in the field of civilian industry?

[Hasan] We in the Ministry of Industry set general orientations. We do not set special orientations. It is incorrect to set an isolated, special orientation. The general orientations are specified in light of the summit and ministerial meetings. However, in principle, we are now moving within the framework of balanced deals. This is being followed among the ACC states. Cooperation within this framework has increased significantly. Regarding the future, I believe the cooperation will witness integrated deals or collective enterprises.

[Al-Shadhili] Let us return to cooperation between Egypt and Iraq in the field of military industrialization, in particular, after your meeting with the minister of state for war production and the head of the Arab Industrialization Organization. Did these meetings yield specific results in this field?

[Hasan] Yes. Some lines have been drawn. Ideas have been raised and many projects are being discussed and studied. We in Iraq and Egypt are crystallizing projects which we will discuss soon. We in Iraq and Egypt think along common lines. My meetings with the Egyptian minister of state for war production dealt with many joint enterprises and ideas. We will draw up joint programs for war production in the interest of both countries and the ACC and on the Arab level as a whole.

[Al-Shadhili] Did you accept the invitation to visit Egypt?

[Hasan] The Iraqi officials consider Egypt their country and can visit it any time. Every week, there are delegations from the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization that exchange visits with their Egyptian counterparts on a regular basis. The topics that will be raised during the talks must deal with specific projects so as to be raised at the ACC summit. On this basis, it was agreed that the leaders of the four ACC states meet every 3 months to expedite what is important in joint action.

[Al-Shadhili] Does this mean that the Iraqi military production has reached the stage of deterrence?

[Hasan] We seek, or rather plan and devote all our effort to achieve means of deterrence against those who try to attack the Arabs whoever they are and wherever they are. This is because the Arabs have never been aggressive. Iraq and Egypt will never commit any aggression against any non-Arab country. We the Arabs preceded others in raising the slogan of noninterference in internal affairs and nonuse of Arab armies against each other. We have absolute faith in this.

[Al-Shadhili] After the Iraqi victory and the full cooperation between Egypt and Iraq, it has been noticed that the world arms companies are trying to disrupt the potential results of our bilateral cooperation. We feel that the major world arms companies want to monopolize the military industry. What do you believe their objective behind that is, in light of what they are frequently reiterating about nuclear, chemical, and other types of warfare?

[Hasan] In fact, there is not only one pattern in the world. The world is divided into hundreds of tendencies. Some of them are happy because the Iraq-Iran war has come to an end. Others consider this day, as Khomeyni said, as if they were forced to swallow poison. Others want the war to continue so as to sell their weapons.

However, even if the war continues, Iraq has significantly reduced its military purchases. What has been produced and exhibited at the war fair made purchases very limited.

I therefore think that attempts to sell arms to Iraq will not realize their aims. Those who are trying to unleash furor and direct all sorts of accusations against the Arabs are in fact perpetrating things thousands of times worse than the things of which they accuse us. They talk about nuclear arms when they are producing them. They talk about Iraqi-Egyptian nuclear cooperation at a time when the entire world knows well the nuclear capabilities of Iraq and Egypt, which are not sufficient to allow them to possess nuclear weapons.

[Al-Shadhili] It has been reported that Iraq financed Egyptian production of sophisticated surface-to-surface missiles with the use of Argentine expertise. What is your reaction to this?

[Hasan] As far as I know, Argentina does not produce missiles. Iraq and Egypt possess and produce missiles. Egypt exerted its own efforts in producing and developing missiles without asking Iraq for any assistance. The Iraqis, also, implemented their own Iraqi program for producing missiles without the help of Egypt or Argentina. I believe that Argentina has not posessed missiles to date. Its name was mentioned in order to mislead world public opinion.

[Al-Shadhili] Some people said that a number of products displayed at the Iraqi pavilion in the fair were not made in Iraq, especially the T-72 tank. What is your comment?

[Hasan] Iraq bought the license to manufacture this tank from the Soviet Union about 3 years ago. We passed the stage of assembling this tank, and production has begun. We produce the tank's gun and all of its internal systems. Through this program, we will be able to manufacture the tank fully in Iraq in 1990. We will not listen to those who cast doubts. What matters is that we work, and this is our principle.

[Al-Shadhili] We have noticed an increase in the number of the arms-producing companies that participated in the Baghdad international fair. This poses a question as to whether these companies and states came to find markets for their products or to explore and discover the developments of others.

[Hasan] I think they aimed at showing the extent of progress in their arms through an international fair. As for Iraq, we produce the tank but will not sell it for whoever wants to buy it. Most of the countries that participated in the fair are friends of Iraq.

[Al-Shadhili] Is Iraq's production of some military equipment, such as tanks under license from the producing nations, conditional on not delivering them to a third party without the concession of the mother country?

[Hasan] Yes. These countries require this from us and we do not mind.

[Al-Shadhili] Were the developed Iraqi missiles such as Al-'Abbas and Al-Husayn produced under license from some countries or were they fully produced in Iraq?

[Hasan] We have never received a license for surface-to-surface missiles from any side. In fact, if we try, we might waste a great deal of time and effort and go back to where we were. However, in this production, we have depended on ourselves 100 percent. Some of the missiles in the fair were developed. As for what concerns the Al-'Abbas and Al-Faw medium range (surface-to-surface) missiles, they were fully produced in Iraq.

[Al-Shadhili] It is said that the Iraqi fair witnessed great competition between France and England over training and fighter planes such as the Hawk and the Alpha Jet. Egypt has been producing the Alpha Jet for years. Why do we not think of complementarity, especially since some fraternal countries have experience in this field?

[Hasan] Yes. Egypt does produce the Alpha Jet. We in Iraq have a project to produce those planes. So far, we have not made our final choice on training or fighter planes. The competitors are not only England and France. There are also Italy, the Soviet Union, and the CSSR. So far, the choice has not been made. It will be made based on setting up training and fighter planes' production. Therefore, if we want the Alpha Jet fighter planes, we will buy them from Egypt.

We previously bought the Tucano plane. I would like to point out that Iraq is not competing with Egypt in this field. We were determined to produce this Tucano plane in Iraq. However, we decided against that after the former Egyptian defense minister informed us that Iraq's production of this plane might create some kind of undesirable rivalry. We responded to the general benefit and did not produce it.

[Al-Shadhili] What is Iraq's response to the possibility that its military factories might be subject to Israeli attacks?

[Hasan] We warned the Israeli officials twice. All those who think of attacking us will get the response they deserve.

[Al-Shadhili] It has been said that Iraq intends to rebuild its nuclear reactor once again. How true is this information?

[Hasan] We need a nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes. We are negotiating this issue with France. However, the subject has not been concluded yet.

Repatriation of POW's To Be Discussed in Geneva
JN0605163589 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Vienna, May 6, INA—An international meeting will [be] held in Geneva on 29 this month to discuss the question of repatriation of prisoners of war [POW's] between Iraq and Iran with attendance of personalities from different Arab and European states and the United States of America, Dr Hans Koschler, president of International Progress Organisation, told a correspondent of INA in Geneva.

He said the meeting that lasts two days and attended by about 30 personalities from different countries in addition to delegations representing various international organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, would discuss the means to be followed to help in exchange of the POWS between Iraq and Iran and end the suffering they are facing for several years.

While receiving Dr Koschler in Baghdad in early March, President Saddam Husayn had announced Iraq's readiness to carry out immediate and comprehensive exchange of war prisoners between Iraq and Iran regardless [of] the future results of negotiations between the two countries, but Iran rejected that and insisted on playing with the card of POW's despite the calamity they are facing for years.

Iran has violated an agreement reached by the two countries, under supervision of the United nations, to exchange the sick and wounded POW's, during the second of the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations in Geneva, justifying that with flimsy pretexts.

Communications Project With Saudis Under Way
JN0405125089 Baghdad INA in English 1155 GMT 4 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May, 4, INA—Iraqi technical departments accomplished the civil works of a strategic project linking Iraq and Saudi Arabia with a microwave telecommunications net, Mr Muhammad Hamzah, Iraqi minister of transport and communications, today told INA.

The minister said that the project, with a total cost of five million Iraqi dinars, would start its experimental operation at the beginning of the next year while the project's engineering works are still continuing.

The Iraqi minister described the project as a strategic one that serves the region and enables Iraq to use the Saudi telecommunications net to contact with the Arab Gulf countries, Egypt, Sudan, Europe, and the Far East, while it would enable Saudi Arabia to communicate with Turkey, Jordan, and Syria by using the Iraqi telecommunications net.

The Iraqi Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Saudi Ministry of Post and Telecommunications had agreed last September on implementing this joint strategic project.

Shamir Denies U.S. 'Warning' on Arresting Leaders
TA0905065089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 May 89

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Mikha Friedman—live]

[Excerpt] [Friedman] Good morning, sir.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Friedman] Yesterday we buried Avi Sasportas, the last fallen soldier of the 40th year of Israel's independence. Sasportas was not killed in action behind enemy lines, nor was he killed in battle defending our borders. He was killed in the heart of the country, practically on his home doorstep. Does this murder indicate a new direction in our struggle for existence where the rear is the front?

[Shamir] This is not a new direction, nor is this the first murder of its kind. It was preceded by similar murders. I believe that we must be more alert. An intelligence effort must be made to uncover the gangs that are trying to commit such murderous acts. I am certain we will catch the murderers and uproot this new type of killing.

[Friedman] According to various reports, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will soon recommend that harsher measures be taken against the creators of the intifadah [uprising]. Among other steps, the possibility of deporting a large number of leaders from the territories has been mentioned. Do you support, in principle, the notion of implementing harsher steps?

[Shamir] It is not a question of supporting the idea. Decisions will be made when the need for them arises and the times call for them to be made. Obviously we do not announce them ahead of time.

[Friedman] Is it true that last night the United States relayed an unequivocal message to Israel warning us not to take harsher steps against leaders of the intifadah?

[Shamir] We are holding constant contacts with the U.S. Administration. I know of nothing having been relayed to us in the form of a warning. There is a constant exchange of opinions between us. Only recently we saw an official announcement saying that the United States does not dictate to Israel what steps need be taken.

[Friedman] In any case, should such a message be relayed to us, do you believe that we would be bound to comply or should we run our policy the way we see fit, without heeding the warnings given us by our best of friends on the outside?

[Shamir] I believe that in everything that involves our security and defense, we are the experts and the best qualified. We should make decisions according to our understanding of things. Of course, every now and then we should explain to our friends why we do what we do.

[Friedman] Knesset Member Uri'el Linn, a member of your own Likud party, has been calling on you to replace Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon because of what he terms the deterioration in our internal security. What is your reaction to this demand?

[Shamir] Well, first of all I have not yet received this letter. I believe it contains more explanations and reasons. I can say, however, that replacing ministers in the Cabinet is not on the agenda at the moment.

[Friedman] Mr Prime Minister, you are currently trying to secure a broad national agreement on your political initiative. Will you succeed in presenting Sunday's Cabinet meeting with a plan that is acceptable both to the Likud and the Alignment?

[Shamir] I hope we will succeed in formulating a proposal for negotiations. The proposal that is to be presented to the Cabinet should not be seen as a fixed Israeli peace plan; it should be a proposal that we could follow in negotiations with the Arab side.

[Friedman] Do you believe that in the next few days this proposal will be signed, sealed, and agreed on and ready for presentation to all the Israeli Cabinet ministers?

[Shamir] We are still working on it, but I believe that we will be able to present a sound proposition.

[Friedman] What agreement could there be between the Likud and the Alignment on the issue of the East Jerusalem residents' voting rights?

[Shamir] First, we are not committed to settling all the issues today. This is particularly true while we are still discussing the proposal among ourselves. Further resolutions will be made later and once negotiations start. There is no point in sharpening and widening the internal differences at present.

[Friedman] Several days ago you said—and I am not quoting, only reporting the essence of your words—that the Palestinians would be well advised to adopt this plan, because there is no chance of them getting a better one. Let me ask you what is so tempting, what is so attractive in a short-term autonomy leading to negotiations on the permanent arrangement, in which Israel would demand, according to you, full sovereignty over Judaea and Samaria?

[Shamir] May I defer to someone who is perhaps more acceptable than myself to both the PLO and all the Palestinians: Egypt's President Mubarak. Several days ago, Mubarak said once again that he regrets the fact that the autonomy negotiations that followed the Camp David accords stopped when they did in 1982. He believes that, had these negotiations continued, they

would have been concluded and the situation of the Palestinians today would have been far better. I believe that Mubarak's answer is quite satisfactory.

[Friedman] Would you consider the possibility that autonomy in the territories—if it succeeds, and this is definitely a precondition—could become a permanent arrangement even after the 5-year interim period.

[Shamir] We are proposing a plan that says that the first stage would be self-rule and that after a certain period of time we would start negotiating the permanent arrangement. The aim of these negotiations should be to reach a solution that is acceptable to all sides. What you are asking is possible if all the sides involved were to agree.

[Friedman] Do you have anything to offer Syria to remove it from the circle of hostility?

[Shamir] Our current proposal deals with our eastern front, namely the Jordanian border and the Palestinians, the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Complains of Use of 'Terror'

TA3004093689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Israel has complained to the United States that terror is being used in the territories to foil any attempt of finding interlocutors for discussions of the elections plan.

Two days ago Foreign Minister Moshe Arens transferred to U.S. Ambassador William Brown updated data on attacks on Palestinians carried out by Palestinians in April.

According to these data, the number of people assassinated in April stands at a peak of seven (before "the day of setting the accounts" on 26 April). In February and March, the attacks were mainly threats and damage to property. Recently, however, extreme elements have resorted to attacking people.

The Foreign Ministry has instructed the diplomatic representations in Europe and the United States to feed the media with continuing information on the internal terror employed in the territories and to encourage it to present reports and articles on the issue.

At the same time, it became apparent that the Cabinet will not discuss the elections plan today as well and that the working teams set up to formalize the prime minister's peace plan have not started working yet.

It has been reported that the teams will start operating this week. In the Foreign Ministry, however, doubts have been raised as to the value of the team working without a Cabinet resolution on basic political issues such as the essence of the elections, their supervision, the question of the residents of East Jerusalem, and so on. [passage omitted]

Arens: Elections Impossible During 'Uprising'

TA0805173189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 8 May 89

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said today that it will be impossible to hold elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza if the intifadah [uprising] is not stopped. In an address during a session of the Knesset Foreign and Defense Committee, Minister Arens added that if residents of the territories and their elected candidates do not adopt acceptable positions that draw a line between them and the PLO in Tunis, there will be no agreement. Our Knesset correspondent reports:

Minister Arens does not believe that anyone has a miracle cure guaranteed to quell the uprising. He is convinced, however, that it is possible to guarantee security on Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza roads, and that this will be done, although—in his words—this has already taken too long. The settlers are the first buffer against the Palestinian state peril, and we owe them that.

At this point, Arens leveled criticism at the French—the French society elite—who rushed to embrace 'Arafat and to dine with him. It reminds me of the 1930's, he said, when intelligent and cultured people holding key positions idolized Adolf Hitler and met with him. [passage omitted]

Arens further said: As for elections in the territories, we hope that if and when elections are held, both the voters and the elected figures are realistic enough not to present positions unacceptable to us. If there is no difference between them and the PLO in Tunis, there will be no agreement, the foreign minister warned.

Rabin: Harsher Steps Only if Necessary

TA3004164889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Apr 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that he will not implement harsher measures to quell terror and violence unless such measures become necessary to further the political process.

The defense minister made these statements at today's Cabinet session in response to a query by Minister Sharon, who asked what Rabin meant when he said that harsher measures, which could have been put into practice, have not been utilized as part of the actions taken to stop acts of terror.

In Sharon's opinion more stringent action should be taken now, after 80 leading notables in the territories have rejected Shamir's initiative.

Sharon Opposes Nusaybah, Al-Husayni Candidacy

TA0905103189 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 9 May 89 p 2

[Report by Menahem Shezaf]

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has said that Palestinian leaders Sari Nusaybah and Faysal al-Husayni should not be allowed to run in the elections to be held in the territories in accordance with the prime minister's plan. Sharon substantiated his argument by saying that East Jerusalem residents should not be granted voting rights. According to him, "this would seriously jeopardize security. We would be creating quasi-state conditions in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. I would make any arrangements necessary to enable East Jerusalem residents to vote in Jordan, because it is a state, but Janin, Nabulus, and Ramallah do not constitute a state, and we should not create a situation whereby they are seen as one."

Sharon went on to say that granting such voting rights would in practice lead to the repartition of Jerusalem. He explained his objection to granting voting rights to the Arabs of East Jerusalem by saying that "most of the leaders of terror organizations currently reside in Jerusalem. If they are allowed to elect and be elected, they will come out of their dens. They would be given our legitimization and that of the entire world, of course, and they would be protected by Israeli democracy." Sharon emphasized that he was referring to Sari Nusaybah and Faysal al-Husayni, "who are known to be the leaders of the activities and the standard-bearers of violence and terror."

According to Sharon, no move should be taken until the territories are calm. In a meeting yesterday with members of the Movement for Zionist Revival, headed by former Knesset Member Mordekhay Ben-Porat, Sharon rejected the possibility that Israel might reach an agreement on terminating the intifadah [uprising] with the PLO or the Palestinians as part of the beginning of the political process. According to Sharon, "peace and security must be restored not through an agreement, but by the security forces."

Foreign Ministry To Prepare Elections Proposals

TA3004091689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Apr 89 pp 1, 2

[Report by Menahem Shalev and Wolf Blitzer]

[Excerpts] The U.S. has asked Israel to formulate the details of Prime Minister Shamir's proposals to hold elections in the territories—and to submit the blueprint to Washington within weeks, well-placed sources said last night. [passage omitted]

Knowledgeable officials in Jerusalem said last night that despite the fact that formal proposals on the method of elections have yet to be formulated, Shamir is likely to back Defence Minister Rabin's preference for territories-wide political elections rather than municipal elections favoured by his own advisers.

The officials also did not rule out the possibility that Shamir and Rabin would reach agreement on the participation of East Jerusalem residents, which Rabin favours and Shamir currently opposes. Both Rabin and Shamir oppose a withdrawal of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from Arab population centres, as well as formal international supervision of the elections, but both are willing to consider some sort of international "observation" of the elections.

The American request was submitted in a high-level diplomatic meeting on Friday. In a meeting the same day between Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and U.S. Ambassador William Brown, Arens gave Brown a list of incidents of inter-Palestinian violence which took place this month.

Salay Meridor, Arens' political adviser, is to head the Foreign Ministry working committee on the elections, starting work this week. Meridor and ministry director-general Re'uven Merhav will also head the three other committees which will prepare proposals on the other three points of Shamir's peace plan—reconfirmation of the Camp David Accords, peace with other Arab countries and settlement of the Palestinian refugee problem.

The Foreign Ministry teams will thus join similar informal teams which have been operating concurrently in the Prime Minister's Office and in the Defence Ministry.

Within two weeks, Shamir is expected to ask the inner cabinet to set up an inter-ministerial committee which could submit finalized proposals for decision.

Senior officials admitted last night that "until now, nothing official has been done about the elections proposals." They added that the U.S. did not state any sort of deadline for the presentation of Israel's formulas "but it's clear that they are talking about weeks, and not months."

The officials said Rabin, who departs for a visit to the U.S. in three weeks, may take some agreed general principles on the elections.

In Washington a senior Bush administration official has urged the Palestinians to accept a gradual, step-by-step approach, including a readiness to support Palestinian elections as the next step in the process. [passage omitted]

Knesset Committee To Discuss Shamir's Plan

TA0305104789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 May 89

[Text] The Knesset has transferred to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee the discussion on the prime minister's political initiative. During a special holiday session initiated by Hayim Ramon of the Alignment, the

initiator said that there is no precedent for the prime minister preparing a plan and publicizing it before presenting it to the Knesset.

He called on the prime minister to expose 'Arafat's lies, if the PLO leader is indeed lying. Minister Roni Milo answered Ramon on behalf of the government, saying that only principles and not a detailed plan were presented to President Bush. After such a plan is consolidated, it will be discussed in the Inner Cabinet, in the Cabinet, and later in the Knesset.

Peres: Shamir Election Plan 'Reasonable,' 'Fair'
TA2804185489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Vice Premier Shim'on Peres says the Palestinians will err if they miss the opportunity provided them in Prime Minister Shamir's proposals for elections. He told foreign newsmen that Shamir's offer was reasonable and fair, and his aim was to make a breakthrough to negotiations. Peres added he was not against the participation of foreign observers during elections in the territories. Israel did not have anything to hide, and the foreign press could also follow the election process.

Head of Gaza Civil Administration Meets Notables
JN0105200589 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 1 May 89

[Hasan Abu Zayid dispatch]

[Text] Brigadier General Ari'el Schiffman, head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, today met with a number of Gaza notables, including Riyad al-Agha, Zakariya al-Agha, As'ad al-Sartawi, Musa Abu Sha'ban, Ahmad al-Yaziji, and others. The head of the Civil Administration spoke for the first time on the topics of the hour. Khalid al-Qidrah, deputy dean of lawyers, spoke about this meeting.

[Begin Al-Qidrah recording] Shamir's plan has not yet been completed. There are no details and the dimensions of this plan have not been defined. Therefore, he hopes there will be no haste in expressing an opinion about it—be it negative or positive. He said: I am not asking you to accept it, but hope you will take your time as there is still no clear plan. Despite the various local reactions—in Israel and elsewhere—this plan is still under study by the Israeli Government and will soon be officially presented. One can then comment on it. He also spoke about reopening schools out of concern for the students' interests and hoped classes will be regular.

On all previous occasions, he and even the other military officials, including the head of the Civil Administration, used to say that they were not concerned or rather empowered to discuss political affairs, that they were responsible for everyday life affairs, and that they were always ready to convey what the people say to the political decisionmakers. Today, talk was perhaps different. He spoke a little about agriculture and water and how many thousand shekels they spent on agriculture. He also spoke about schools. But the prevalent element in the speech was Shamir's plan and the document recently signed by Palestinian notables. He said: I know that some of you were among the signatories.

We, the audience, were unanimous in wondering why the administration and people preoccupied themselves in giving their opinion about a yet incomplete plan. [end recording]

Notables' Mediation With PLO Rejected
TA3004094389 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Apr 89 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Some 10 days ago, Palestinian notables from the territories transferred a message from the PLO to the Israeli Government that includes an agreement in principle to elections in the territories without the precondition of a withdrawal, in the framework of a sort of a six-clause "package deal." Israel has rejected this mediation and warned the notables not to continue mediating between it and the PLO.

The six clauses proposed by the PLO are: cooperation in calming the territories in the framework of the preparations for the elections; redeployment of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units in the territories; holding the elections; negotiations in a preparatory stage for an international conference; an implementation of UN Resolution 242; and negotiations on the permanent status of the territories.

This was reported to our correspondent by the notables who were involved in transferring the message. According to them, they have been warned by Israeli elements to stop transferring messages. The notables have the impression that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and other Alignment ministers showed sympathy for the PLO suggestion, while the Prime Minister's Office rejected it outright.

They believe that the background for this message is statements made by Shamir last week calling for an expansion of the settlements and the detention of those involved with the PLO during the proposed elections. The Palestinians, for their part, reacted to the tough Israeli position by issuing the communique signed by 80 notables from the territories in which they have in fact revoked the message they transferred.

The suggestion was explained by a PLO recognition of the fact that Israel will not agree to withdraw from the territories before peace is achieved.

Our correspondent notes that the term "a preparatory stage for an international conference" is an accepted code for direct talks. The Mena House conference, held in Cairo in 1977, was termed a preparatory conference for the Geneva conference, but served as an opening for the process of direct talks between Israel and Egypt. The expression "the implementation of UN resolution 242" was meant to replace the phrase "territories for peace" because of the Likud's sensitivity.

Palestinian Rejection of Shamir Plan 'Mistake'
TA2804194089 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Apr 89 p 2

[Editorial by Ilan Kfir: "Only an Opening Move"]

[Text] The decision by 80 Palestinian leaders to reject Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's elections idea may be proven a mistake.

The inevitable result: hardening both sides' positions, an escalation in the intifadah [uprising], and a stronger Israeli reaction against it. Muscle in return for muscle. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made it clear yesterday that whoever rejects Israel's extended hand will convert it into a clenched fist for the suppression of the uprising.

It is not clear what gains the intifadah leaders are expecting to make from the rejectionist line they have adopted. It is also unclear whether this is an independent line, demonstrating their breaking away from the Algiers decisions adopted by the PLO that was not decisive in its reaction to the Shamir plan. It is possible that the inflexible position is a result of threats of terror by the radical organizations.

There are at present two alternatives on the agenda: Free and democratic elections as proposed by Israel, or the continued uprising as proposed by the intifadah leaders.

It would be mistaken for Israel to regard the Palestinian "no" as a final position and retract the elections idea. Against the backdrop of the Palestinian decision, the elections proposal should rather be made clearer. An attempt should be made to convince the Palestinian leadership that elections are preferable to a continuation of the uprising. It should be hoped that the declaration of the 80 is only an opening position in the negotiations and not the last word.

End of Refusal To Negotiate With PLO Urged
TA0405134589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 May 89 p 9

[Editorial: "'Arafat Shelves the Covenant"]

[Text] Francois Mitterrand, the president of France, has been recognized as a friend of Israel for many years. Mitterrand has, however, long held the view that this friendship does not obligate him to boycott the PLO, which represents the Palestinians. He perceives himself as a mediator between the Jewish state and the organization that represents the Palestinians. Actually, Mitterrand has become the major PLO lobbyist in the Western world.

The socialist leader constantly strives, by virtue of his high political stature, to increase his country's prestige in the Middle East. The idea of an international conference that would formulate the political settlement between Israel and the Palestinian residents of the territories, entrances Mitterrand, both as a Frenchman and as a lover of peace.

Against this background, it is clear why Mitterrand refused to heed the Israeli prime minister's protests over the intention to invite Yasir 'Arafat to come on an official visit to Paris. Mitterrand, nevertheless, clearly understands why 'Arafat's appearance at the Elysee Palace would arouse criticism not just in Jerusalem. That is why he was careful to justify the move, which was expected to be portrayed as a prestigious accomplishment for the PLO leader, by persuading 'Arafat to remove the main obstacle remaining in the PLO's path toward unqualified acceptance in the international arena: the Palestinian National Covenant.

The Palestine National Council [PNC] in Algiers made its declaration on the establishment of the independent state of Palestine contingent on—among other things—UN Resolution 181, which we recognize by the date it was issued, 29 November 1947.

Israeli commentators attempted to explain that the Palestinian Covenant had been disowned if only because the PNC declaration based itself on the UN Resolution. They said that it is impossible to demand the establishment of an Arab-Palestinian state according to the partition plan of Eretz Yisra'el within the boundaries of the British mandate, while at the same time waging a war to the death against the second partitioned state—the State of Israel. One cannot declare that the 1947 partitioning of Eretz Yisra'el and the establishment of Israel are null and void (Clause 19 in the covenant) and also request that the world recognize the state of "Falastin," a state created by an organization that calls for an armed struggle against the Jewish state.

This interpretation did not, however, satisfy the French president. Apparently he demanded that 'Arafat unequivocally state that the Palestinian Covenant now longer obligates the PLO or guides its policy. 'Arafat found a way to repay his host. He declared that the covenant is no longer valid. The French expression he used means, according to one version that the covenant is "null and void," and according to a second version that it is "obsolete."

The second version is less decisive than the first, but it will probably be enough to convince most of the world's politicians and journalists that 'Arafat has more or less discarded the covenant, and more cannot be asked of him.

Legally, only the PNC is authorized to "cancel" the covenant, but politically, it has been shelved by 'Arafat.

That is the way, at any rate, 'Arafat's statement will be taken by the rest of the world. Our American friends will certainly not regard it as a reason to stop their "substantial dialogue" with the PLO.

The Israeli Government, which is attempting to denounce 'Arafat's words as yet another thread in a web of lies, will only persist in maneuvering itself into a closed corner. The world will perceive the PLO chairman's statement as a step toward a political settlement and peace in our country and region. It will believe 'Arafat and not Yitzhaq Shamir.

The unavoidable conclusion should be that the Israeli Government must stop its boycott of the PLO as a partner for negotiation. The sooner it understands this, the better for us.

Palestinians Urged To Accept Election Plan

JN3004155989 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 30 Apr 89

[Unattributed "Observation"]

[Text] Dear listeners: Missed opportunities have been virtual concommitants to the Palestinian question since its inception. It may even be fair to say that this unfortunate phenomenon has been a core factor in the emergence of the Palestinian case.

Palestinian leaders have over the years been given to a policy of rejection. In the early days, they turned down all proposed solutions and every call for coexistence. They then rejected the partition plan and other settlement projects. In hindsight, every Palestinian now realizes that, had they been accepted, the resultant impasse and tragedies would have been avoided.

Many Palestinians now look back with regret and wistfulness to the missed opportunities. Yet the negative Palestinian leaders controlling the Palestinians and their case have stuck to their rejectionist practices and continued to pass up settlement openings.

And these days, as local, regional, and international efforts to achieve peace pick up speed, the elections that Israel has proposed for the [West] Bank and [Gaza] Strip command the interest of the quarters looking for a peaceful settlement. It is commonly thought that the election proposal, which for the first time gives the Palestinians the chance to pick their representatives in free elections, marks a milestone in that it puts the problem on the road to a real solution.

Regrettably, however, the rejectionist policy hangs over this project just as it thwarted the partition plan of 1947, which envisioned a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel and exactly as it declared war on the projected self-rule that would have ensured legitimate Palestinian rights after a 5-year transition period.

Not surprisingly, the leaders who control the Palestinians and their case are nowadays going down the same route traveled by their predecessors. Out of fear for their privileged positions, they not only refuse and declare war on the proposed election, but declare war on and even assassinate any Palestinian or Arab who advocates realism and reasonableness. Employing terroristic, murderous, and intimidatory tactics, negative leaders are trying to plunge the Palestinians in the territories into yet further tribulation and sacrifices through riots, violence, and what they call the intifadah [uprising].

While such acts may command banner headlines and receive widespread coverage in the media, in practical terms they will neither bring results nor, in any way, change the political status quo. Unless the available chances are seized in the interests of changing the status quo, all other gains will go down the drain. Hopefully, the Palestinians will this time make the most of the chance that has presented itself and refuse to be misled once more by the leaders of missed opportunities.

PLO Using Gaps Between Shamir, Rabin Plans

TA3004124989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Apr 89 p 9

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "The Alignment's Daylight Savings Time"]

[Text] The new equation presented by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin—"Palestinian rejection of the elections plan equals more severe measures to quell the intifadah [uprising]"—contains an unknown factor that is the key to both the development of the political process and internal political developments: Which plan? Is it the Shamir plan, which starts with limited elections and ends with autonomy; or is it the Rabin plan, or, if you will the Alignment plan, in which general political elections are an opening stage for a permanent arrangement, the framework of which has more or less been known to both sides from the very start?

From the time Shamir's visit to the White House managed to wrest the prime minister's agreement to elections, an increasing number of signs have been noticed that show the Israeli Government on one hand and the Palestinians on the other are required to respond to two plans that are clearly different in their essence and goals.

Rabin believed, and perhaps still does, that Shamir truly held the rope he handed him, and that together they would pull toward a political solution. When it becomes apparent—and it is due to happen despite the delaying tricks that are being played (the Cabinet will not discuss the issue in its session today as well, and the Foreign

Ministry "working teams" have not been formed yet)—that the two plans cannot meet, the ball will be in the Alignment court and land in the arms of the defense minister.

It is very probable that this will become apparent in 3 weeks, when Rabin arrives in Washington almost in parallel with Foreign Minister Arens' visit there. Secretary of State Baker, and perhaps even President Bush, will hear him say that he does not consider the attainment of calm in the territories a precondition for elections, and that he has a formula for a gradual withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] from population centers. He will say that since Israel is, in any event, interested in reducing its military involvement in the territories at the same time the political process begins, the above are the minute differences between his and the still unclear Shamir plans.

It seems that the leaders of the PLO were wise enough to notice this gap between Rabin's and Shamir's plans. They are now aiming their blows, which constantly erode Israel's international status, right at this sensitive area. Their public comments, coupled with secret remarks whispered to the Americans—tightly coordinated with Jordan and Egypt—speed the ball toward the internal Israeli court. 'Arafat and his allies were quick to grasp the advantages of the "yes, but" attitude over an outright no. The gap between the two plans enables them to say that they are willing to discuss elections, but only if the framework—the procedures of which still need be debated—is the Alignment plan that rejects annexation, and not the Likud plan which states "not an inch."

Rabin defined things for them by saying that the interim arrangement was meant to span this deep gap in the positions of the two major components of the government, allowing them to walk further hand in hand toward a political arrangement. Rabin has learned the lesson of very recent history, namely that without a consensus between the Alignment and the Likud, there is no way out of the political stalemate.

The Palestinians, however, do not trust Rabin, Shahal, Peres, and Beilin and friends to be able to gain broader public support when the time comes to talk about the final arrangement, anymore than they do Arens, Meridor, and Olmert and company—and rightly so. Were the Palestinians to agree now to elect representatives for negotiations on the interim arrangement, it might in the future be seen as a missing of one of their finest and best hours even partially to implement their political rights, and might be seen as a sacrifice of the intifadah's achievements and victims on the altar of autonomy.

Shamir himself has declared that the final arrangement, what the United States calls "the end of the occupation," is an issue left for his heirs. He is willing to offer only autonomy and is not willing to utter the key formula: UN Resolution 242 equals territories for peace. The major candidate to take his place, Moshe Arens, holds the colonialist attitude that improving the living conditions of the residents of the territories, including the creation of a middle class, would yield an acceptance of occupation. When he was defense minister, this attitude led him to oppose the demolition of houses and to a restricted use of administrative detentions. Today it leads him to a genuine support of limited elections in the framework of an interim arrangement. With this in mind, could anyone promise 'Arafat that Shamir's followers in the Likud may offer him more than not an inch?

Rabin's plan, on the other hand, contains a more reasonable insurance for the future. That is why they do not rush to reject it. Against the backdrop of the above, one should carefully read Abu Iyad's [Salah Khalaf] statement given last Wednesday to AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ: "In discussions the Palestinian leadership held in Tunis on 24 April, a general agreement has been reached that the idea of elections should not be objected to. The major question, however, is, elections for what reasons? If these are elections for autonomy or administrative rule, then we clearly oppose them.

If the elections are held within a framework of a general arrangement in which the beginning, the interim stages, and the end are known, and they are held after the withdrawal of Israeli forces and under international supervision, we are willing to discuss them." Later on he takes another important step forward: "The elections, in themselves, are a certain implementation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and can therefore be held under occupation."

The elections serve as an effective tool in Shamir's hands—just as the international conference did in its time—to delay any discussion on the substance of the accord. Once again he is using procedural issues to gain time and to divert attention and external criticism from his policy. The Foreign Ministry, in a cable from Bucharest, received a report of Shamir's statements to the press detailing his "opposition to an IDF withdrawal from the territories, international supervision of the elections, and the participation in them of 140,000 East Jerusalem residents."

The differences between Rabin and the Labor Party on one hand and Shamir on the other will become evident in the United States. These differences exist both on the essence and purpose of these elections, as expressed in Abu Iyad's questions, as well as on procedural matters, in which Rabin shows more flexibility. Even if Israel can acceptably duck questions posed by PLO leaders, it cannot treat President Bush or Secretary of State Baker in a similar manner.

Once Rabin has returned to Israel, he and the rest of the Labor Party's leadership will not be able to avoid verifying Shamir's intentions, and then the confrontation will become inevitable.

Their summer clock has already begun ticking.

Shamir Comments on Mitterrand-'Arafat Meeting

TA0105051589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 1 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has expressed deep disappointment with the French president's intention to confer tomorrow in Paris with Yasir 'Arafat.

Mr Shamir stressed that he said the meeting damages Israeli-French friendship and the chances for Middle East peace. The prime minister spoke last night with our correspondent Dan Eshel at the end of a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the Jabotinsky Institute.

Shamir Briefs French Official

TA0105123089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 1 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that 'Arafat's visit to France encourages extremist tendencies in the Arab world and those elements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza who reject his peace initiative and want the intifadah [uprising] to continue.

Speaking to French Tourism Minister Delegate Olivier Stirn, Shamir added that he salutes the courageous position adopted by French Jewry against the visit. 'Arafat's visit will not promote the peace process in the region and will undoubtedly harden the positions of those who hope to force solutions on Israel, the prime minister noted.

Mitterrand Invited to Palestinian 'Capital'

TA0205170789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 2 May 89

[Excerpt] 'Arafat's visit to France has generated much satisfaction in Judaea and Samaria. Notables from the territories have invited Mitterrand to visit what they termed Jerusalem, capital of the independent Palestinian state. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports:

Notables and representatives of national institutions in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip have sent a cable to President Mitterrand congratulating him on the invitation extended to Yasir 'Arafat, president of Falastin—in the words of the cable.

'Arafat's visit to France, which is being viewed as another step toward the legitimization of the PLO and international recognition of the Palestinian state declared last December by the PLO, has generated deep satisfaction in Judaea and Samaria. A brief inquiry has shown that the cable to the French president was sent by the same 80 figures who cosigned the manifesto against the elections plan. The cable states: We hope that one day France will lead Europe to recognize the independent state. [passage omitted]

'Arafat-Mitterrand Meeting Signals Support

TA0405150989 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 3 May 89 p 1

[Editorial: "'Arafat-Mitterrand—A Palestinian-French Summit on the Road to Peace"]

[Text] The meeting in Paris between President Yasir 'Arafat and French President Francois Mitterrand, in the context of the current West European position and for the first time in the history of Palestinian-French relations, reinforces a new and important political phase that is distinctive in its historic and clear impact in speeding up and intensifying the unquestionable international efforts for achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

The results emanating from this meeting signify support for the Palestinian peace initiative based on the resolutions of the recent Palestine National Council session in Algiers. They also signify further practical preparatory steps on the road to the proposed international conference as the legitimate framework for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and settling the Palestinian problem. This conference should be held under the auspices of the United Nations and on the basis of its resolutions, with the participation of all countries concerned, including the State of Palestine, on equal footing and for the sake of a durable and stable peace.

France, which is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and has political weight in the West European countries bloc as well as in its relations with the states of the region, had received in the past few weeks Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Now it is receiving Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the State of Palestine, in confirmation of the pioneering role that characterizes Paris in its serious effort to achieve a realistic and balanced position by meeting with all the parties to the conflict, who naturally and simultaneously are the parties to a settlement and solution and the parties of the desired peace.

If Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir perceived in the Palestinian-French meeting something contrary to this as well as contrary to what France perceived and endeavored for, he in fact is only perceiving the failure of his present policy and that of his elections concept, which will now fail even more in the face of the firm conviction for peace emanating from the Elysee Palace.

The road to Paris culminating in the 'Arafat-Mitterrand meeting was smoothed by all the roads to other West European capitals after long years of sincere perseverance in support of the Palestinian olive branch. This West European facilitation will lead, in a short subsequent stage, to a Palestinian arrival at the highest levels to Washington. If the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was the prominent step that finally led to Paris, then Paris on its part will be the large step that should induce Washington to acknowledge the importance of the international

conference, so that the White House's bias toward Israel will not remain a bias that does not favor peace and is not optimistic for the chances of achieving this peace.

'Arafat's Statements in Paris Reflect 'Clarity'

TA0505134689 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 May 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The Clear Stance"]

[Text] The news conference held by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Paris yesterday, as well as his remarks to Radio Monte Carlo, reflected the steadiness and clarity of the Palestinian position toward numerous issues pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly those relating to the Palestinian National Charter. In their comments on and analysis of these remarks yesterday, Western news agencies tried to arouse differences in the Palestinian arena by attributing to President 'Arafat statements that he did not make.

Yesterday, President 'Arafat affirmed very precisely and unambiguously that the declaration by the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Algiers, which adopted the document of independence on the basis of two states, was a strategic line that no one could amend. Evidently, the abrogation of any clause from or the addition of any clause to the document of independence issued by the PNC or to the Palestinian National Charter requires one to go back to the PNC, which has the final word.

President 'Arafat pointed out that the term he used in describing the Palestinian National Charter was a legal term, and could be clarified if one were to sit at the table of the international conference, which France supports and for whose convocation it is striving.

Regarding elections in the occupied territories, President 'Arafat affirmed that we agree on applying the Namibia model, which the United States adopted there several months ago.

Thus the Palestinian president's remarks, in their clarity and frankness, will gain strength and effectiveness for the Palestinian position in the Arab and international arenas, and will deepen the impasse and the state of stifling isolation being experienced by Israel's leaders and will return the ball once more to the Israeli court.

The visit by the Palestinian president to Paris takes on dual importance due to its timing and the topics under discussion. On the one hand, it is an expression of the expanding basis of countries that support the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the recent Palestinian tendencies. On the other hand, it is a testimony by one of the Security Council's permanent member states of the justness of the Palestinian problem and the significance of trying to find a just and comprehensive settlement to this problem.

If one has to put on record one's thoughts of French President Mitterrand, it is with all due respect that the Palestinian president described him as a man of principles and ethics and one of the greatest defenders of human rights, who is sincerely trying to overcome the difficulties in a peace process which Israel is impeding.

'Arafat's Remarks on Attack on Jews Decried

JN0505153989 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 5 May 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] The terrorist crime, which was committed against peaceful Israeli Jews in Jerusalem the day before yesterday, killed two old men—one of them 90 years old and the other 78 years old. It also wounded three others seriously, including a 90-year-old woman. This crime, which was committed in the name of the intifadah [uprising] and within the framework of the so-called intifadah, is an ugly and brutal crime. It also implies cowardice and insanity. The perpetrator must be insane or brainwashed.

Yes, this crime is an ugly, terrorist, and brutal crime in accordance with all cultural, religious, and human criteria. Nevertheless, Yasir 'Arafat has defended and justified it by saying that it was self-defense. In other words, he said that it falls within the framework of the Palestinians' right to self-defense.

Undoubtedly, 'Arafat's justification and support for this brutal crime casts serious doubts about the value and weight of the statements made him and his supporters during the past months. The statements expressed these officials' pledge in the name of the PLO to renounce all forms of terrorism and to recognize Israel's right to exist. 'Arafat also announced in Paris this week that the Palestinian National Charter has become obsolete.

The big and serious question that has arisen is: How can these statements and calls by Yasir 'Arafat and his supporters on coexistence and peace between the Palestinians and Israelis be in harmony with the continuation of the terrorist operations and 'Arafat's defense of the terrorist and inhuman operations like the one that was committed in Jerusalem the day before yesterday? How can 'Arafatists' calls and statements on coexistence and peace be in harmony with 'Arafat's call for the need to continue the intifadah?

The continuation of the terrorist operations within the framework and in the name of the intifadah will certainly lead to a gradual destruction of the pillars of mutual confidence and fruitful coexistence between the Palestinians and the Israelis—pillars that have been built over the past 2 decades.

In light of the previous facts, no one can blame Israel—government and people—if it shows doubts about 'Arafat, his supporters, and their real intentions. It is said

that the real test of intentions lies in deeds, and not in words. It is also said that the best and cheapest goods will sell badly and become a subject of suspicion if the seller lacks credibility or has credibility and a record like those of 'Arafat and his supporters. This, in fact, is one of the tragic problems that the Palestinians should confront if they honestly aspire to coexistence and peace. The solution to this problem is their responsibility, because no one will solve it for them.

PLO Attempt To Join WHO 'Negative,' 'Immoral'

JN0705152489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1145 GMT 7 May 89

[From "Brevity Is the Soul of Wit" program by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] The PLO's quest to join the WHO, which belongs to the United Nations, is of a negative, destructive, and immoral nature for two reasons: First, because this would deprive the WHO of the basic portion of its budget given by the United States, and if the United States stops giving funds to the WHO, then this would be tantamount to a decisive blow to the health aid that the WHO extends to the health-stricken African and Asian states. The WHO chairman has spoken about this danger. The London BBC in Arabic has also broadcast a full report on this danger.

Second, the PLO's membership to the WHO is not in line with the passive nature of the PLO that is carrying out acts of terrorism against civilians and killing of civilians.

It is unwise to allow a terrorist organization to join an organization that renders health services, because this is a violation of human ethics and values and sound logic.

Israel Rejects Soviet Proposal To Meet in Cyprus

TA0905095789 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 9 May 89 p 1

[Report by Jerusalem political correspondent]

[Excerpt] Israel has rejected the Soviet Union's proposal to confer in Cyprus with Vladimir Tarasov, its envoy in the Middle East who has been on a tour of the region discussing peace talks. This move came in the wake of Tarasov's refusal to visit Jerusalem as part of his tour.

The invitation to visit Jerusalem was relayed by Arye Levin, the Israeli representative in Moscow, but Tarasov told him that he would be willing to meet in Cyprus. [passage omitted]

Druze Community Sends Money, Emissary to Lebanon

TA0505073989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] Shaykh Amin Tarif, the spiritual leader of the Druze community, has sent a personal emissary to Lebanon to estimate the damages incurred by the Druze in the Al-Shuf mountains in the course of the fighting with the Christians. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the messenger will probably meet with Walid Junblatt, the commander of the Druze militias. The Druze community has transferred approximately $200,000 to Lebanon to help repair the damages caused in the battles.

'Elimination' of Collaborators Order Viewed

TA2804180489 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Apr 89 p 20

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpts] The Unified Command of the Uprising—the intifadah [uprising] leadership—this week authorized the elimination of residents collaborating with Israel. Leaflet No 38, disseminated in the territories 2 weeks ago, set Wednesday, 26 April as the day of "account settling with collaborators." The leaflet urged the residents and the strike committees to injure and liquidate collaborators.

The leaflet, which was disseminated at the beginning of the month of Ramadan and was dedicated to the memory of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], was widely heeded. Over 20 collaborators were attacked, 8 of whom were killed—including a Gaza woman—and 9 of whom were injured—including a Nabulus woman.

The recent wave of assassinations left the collaborators in the territories with a feeling of profound fear. Many began to live behind iron doors, daring to leave home only during morning hours. Others moved to new addresses.

This week many nervous collaborators crowded into the various regional Civil Administration offices asking for advice and help. The officers, however, had no satisfactory responses. They calmed the residents and promised to do everything possible. They reminded them of the appropriate conduct instructions.

One of the Civil Administration officers admitted this week: "Our treatment has not been successful. The protection we give them is insufficient." [passage omitted]

The Arab public differentiates between several kinds of collaborators:

—Simsar: the land dealer. These are the most hated, their deeds are irredeemable, and their sentence is death.

—'Amil al-Mukhabarat: the intelligence agent, the person collaborating with the security elements. Those exposed have been sentenced to death unless they repented. Before the intifadah, the society accepted their existence mainly in order to benefit from their relations with the authorities.

—Khabir: the police informant. The attitude toward them is more lenient because their actions are tacitly concurred with for the benefit of society.

—Meshatfim: the collaborators with the Civil Administration and military government. These are mainly personages, some of them occupying public positions, who maintained contacts with the Civil Administration and the military government, reporting to them on trends and daily problems. The intifadah simply took them over, turning them into spokesmen for the PLO-supporting public.

—Mukhtars: Although the Arab public acknowledges the need for this function, mukhtars have occasionally been suspected of breaking the rules of the game and becoming genuine collaborators. Such mukhtars became targets. The mukhtar of Biddiya was not assassinated because he functioned as a mukhtar, but because he was suspected of collaborating with the security establishment.

—Collaborating political figures: This category includes mayors and council heads who were appointed by the Civil Administration. The Unified National Command of the Uprising called on the public to eliminate them. Most of them today live under the shadow of armed protection by relatives. [passage omitted]

Authorities Pleased Mayor Not Resigning
TA3004190489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Al-Birah Mayor Hasan al-Tawil today withdrew his resignation. He had earlier announced his intention to resign in the wake of an attempt by unknown persons to set fire to his home. Town dignitaries and the regional Civil Administration head appealed to him, after which he withdrew his resignation. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports:

[Passage omitted] The mayor of Al-Birah seemed to give in to those who had been intimidating him, but not for long. This afternoon he said that local dignitaries had appealed to him to continue, since the alternative would have been an Israeli-appointed army officer acting as mayor, as was the case until he himself was appointed.

The Civil Administration viewed the recent developments with displeasure: Had Al-Tawil resigned, others would have followed, causing the Civil Administration long-range damage. Therefore, sources in the Civil Administration reacted with satisfaction to the withdrawal of Hasan al-Tawil's resignation. It may be assumed that the subject will continue to occupy public opinion in the territories.

What Hasan al-Tawil, 72, had to say today was that he merely wishes to serve his people. [passage omitted]

Rabin on Countering Arab Countries' Missiles
TA0905145089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] The defense minister said that Israel so far does not have the means to shoot down surface-to-air missiles used by Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, but has a deterrent capability against their being used. Interviewed in the army invalids' magazine on the occasion of Independence Day, Minister Rabin said that a war with Syria can be prevented if Israel continues to invest in improving its military might and maintains an alert on the Golan Heights. Minister Rabin also said that the Arab countries continue to arm themselves with sophisticated weapons and try to strengthen their air forces in order to overcome the Israeli Air Force's superiority.

Police Use Tear Gas To Disperse Golan March
TA0905143289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] In the Druze village of Mas'adah in the Golan Heights, police used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse a procession by 200 students. Some 42 students suspected of rioting were detained. They marched in the main street and stoned policemen, wounding several. Before the procession, an Israeli flag flying over the school was taken down and burned. There is currently a tense quiet in the town.

Poll Shows Public Divided on Talks With PLO
TA2804195489 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Apr 89 p 1

[Dahaf Institute Poll]

[Text] Only a minority of the public (17 percent) supports unconditional negotiations with the PLO. The rest of the public is divided, almost equally, between those who reject in principle any negotiations with the PLO (39 percent), and those who favor negotiations on the condition that the PLO keeps its promises, recognizes Israel, and ceases terror (41 percent).

These findings emerge from a public opinion poll conducted on the eve of the Passover. The poll encompassed 656 people who were privately interviewed, according to a representative sample.

Question: Are you for or against negotiations with the PLO? (the answers are in percentages) [all percentages as published]:

Never	Yes, on condition	Yes, now
39	41	17

Question: Which of the following solutions is preferable for the problem of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza?

Annexation	Autonomy	Territorial Compromise	Palestinian State	Status Quo
22	27	33	5	9

Poll Shows Drop in Alignment Popularity

TA2804120789 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] In the 2d week of April 1989, the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute, under the management of Dr Rahel Yisre'eli, studied political preferences in Israel. The interviewees were asked: "If the Knesset elections were held today, which party would you vote for?"

The figures, given according to Knesset seats compared with the results of the elections for the 12th Knesset and the results of surveys held in February and March 1989, are presented in the following table:

	Apr 89	Mar 89	Feb 89	12th Knesset Nov 88
Likud	40	40	40	40
Alignment	29	32	34	39
Moledet	3	3	4	2
Tzomet	3	3	2	2
Tehiya	4	4	3	3
Center-Shinuy	3	2	2	2
United Workers Party	5	4	4	3
Citizens Rights Movement	9	8	7	5
Agudat Yisra'el	6	5	5	5
Degel Hatora	2	2	2	2
Torah Observing Sephardim	5	6	6	6
National Religious Party	5	5	5	5
Progressive List for Peace plus Democratic Front for Peace and Equality Darawshah	6	6	6	6

The survey was conducted through personal interviews with 1,251 interviewees who make up a representative national sample of the adult Jewish population in Israel, excluding residents of the kibbutzim and the territories.

Survey Finds Public Prefers Likud 'Young Guard'

TA3004104089 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Apr 89 p 18

[Report by Shlomo Naqdimon]

[Text] Shim'on Peres did not accede to those who wanted his resignation, and Yitzhaq Shamir has also just begun to get a good grip on his job, but surveys have already tried to find out how the public views the young guards in the parties.

In fact, it was 'Uzi Bar'am, just before he resigned as Labor Party secretary general, who asked the Smith Institute (father and son, Hanokh and Rafi Smith), to check which of the two groups of heirs has greater public support. The following was the question put to a representative sample of 1,100 men and women among the Jewish population:

"Here is a list of the five leading personalities in the two large parties. Which group, in your view, can better manage state affairs in the future?"

The Likud group included the three young ministers—Meridor, Olmert, and Milo—Deputy Minister Netanyahu and Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin. The Labor Party group included the three who have declared themselves as heirs—Ministers Shahal, Ya'aqobi, and Gur—and MK's Bar'am and Ramon.

Some 43 percent of the interviewees expressed support for the Likud lineup, compared to 23 percent who gave their support to the Alignment team.

The Smiths investigated the breakdown of the answers between Alignment and Likud voters and discovered an interesting fact: 82 percent of Likud supporters preferred their team while only 67 percent of Labor Party supporters said they preferred their "five starters."

At the same time, the public's views about the performance of the members of the teams was investigated. The list included 12 personalities, but Bar'am, who ordered the survey, wished to check attitudes toward a much more limited team—three Likud members (Meridor, Olmert, Milo) and three Alignment members (Shahal, Ya'aqobi, and Bar'am, who, by the way, is the only one who does not hold an official position).

There were three types of responses: good to very good, medium to bad, and, of course, those who did not have any opinion.

—Leading the list of those who perform "well-very well," was Meridor (39 percent). After him came Olmert, Milo, Shahal (33 percent each), Bar'am (31 percent), and Ya'aqobi (26 percent).

Likud supporters, by the way, gave the following list of priorities: Milo, Meridor, Olmert. Labor Party supporters placed Bar'am at the top of the list, followed by Shahal and Ya'aqobi.

—On the list of those who function "average to bad," the order was as follows: Shahal (43 percent), Bar'am (42 percent), Ya'aqobi (38 percent), Milo (36 percent), Olmert (35 percent), Meridor (28 percent).

Likud supporters divided their marks for worst performances according to the following order: Meridor, Milo, and Olmert. Labor Party supporters listed them in the

following order: Shahal, Ya'aqobi, Bar'am. An interesting point: Likud supporters are more critical of their elected representatives than Labor Party supporters.

Smith explained: "The public believes that the team presented by the Likud is really better. Beyond that, however, the Likud is presented to the public as a united party, which gives it an advantage over the Labor Party, which appears divided."

It seems that this survey was one of the factors that convinced Bar'am not to call for his inclusion among those competing for leadership of the Alignment, although from a personal point of view he should be happy with the findings. By the way, among the three competing for leadership of the Labor Party, it appears that Bar'am prefers Shahal to Ya'aqobi and Gur.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

2 Gaza Arabs Killed in Accident

TA0805202189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Two Gaza Strip Arabs were killed and five Israeli bus passengers were injured on the Qastina-Ashqelon road this afternoon. Our correspondent David Regev reports on the circumstances of the accident, quoting a female driver who said that the vehicle driven by the Arabs had tried to sideswipe her car and run her off the road. Because of the high speed of their vehicle, the Arab driver lost control of the steering wheel, crashed into an oncoming bus driving from Ashqelon to Qiryat Mal'akhi and was trapped under the wheels of the bus.

Update on 8 May Incidents

TA0905071089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 May 89 p 14

[Report by Joel Greenberg, Mikhal Sela', and David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In the West Bank yesterday, a Jewish resident reported that he was stoned and stabbed by Arab assailants at Bal'a near Tulkarm. [passage omitted]

In other incidents in the territories, 12 Palestinians were reported wounded in clashes with soldiers.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 9 May, in a pool report on page 2, quotes Arab sources reporting "16 people wounded by iron bullets and live ammunition." The Israeli army spokesman, however, "knows of no casualties and notes that relative calm prevailed in the Gaza Strip yesterday."] In Gaza, an 11-year-old boy was shot in the eye in the Al-Shaykh Radwan neighbourhood and taken to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. Casualties were also reported in other Gaza neighbourhoods, at the Al-Shati' refugee camp, and at Dayr al-Balah.

In the West Bank, soldiers shot and wounded a Palestinian during a curfew at the 'Askar refugee camp in Nabulus, and another was wounded at the neighbouring village of Dayr al-Hatab. Persistent curfew violations, clashes with troops and stoning of Israeli cars were reported in the Tulkarm area.

East Jerusalem journalist Muhammad al-Zuhayka charged that he was beaten and clubbed on the face and chest by two policemen at the Russian Compound in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

David Makovsky adds:

Four Arabs were arrested and one was wounded during a clash with police late last night in East Jerusalem.

A police spokesman said that a patrol in Silwan was stoned by masked youths and the police used tear gas and rubber bullets. A police spokesman said that a youth was hit by a rubber bullet and was brought to Hadassah Hospital in 'En Kerem.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 9 May reports that "three firebombs were thrown last night at a military vehicle traveling near the village of Awsarin close to the trans-Samaria road. No one was hurt."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 9 May, in a pool report on page 2, reports that "it was decided yesterday to release Faruq Hamdallah, a former Jordanian Parliament member who was arrested for suspected agitation, as a token of goodwill and at the request of Arab notables in Samaria."]

1 Killed, 2 Hurt in West Bank

TA0905153589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] An Arab youth was killed and two were wounded in a clash with soldiers in the township of Salfit in Samaria. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit arrived in Salfit after receiving information that demonstrations and roadblocks were planned by local residents.

A preliminary investigation of the clash conducted by a senior commander indicates that youths blocked the IDF unit's passage through the town's outskirts. Three of them sustained injuries, and one died on the way to the hospital. A closure was imposed on the township.

There was a general strike marking 17 months of the uprising in Judaea and Samaria today. Towns and refugee camps in Samaria are under curfew, as is the Gaza Strip. The full curfew will remain in force until the end of Independence Day [10 May]. Judaea and Samaria Arabs have been prohibited entry into Israel for the duration of the holiday.

Al-Huss Cables Shevardnadze on Baker Meeting
NC0905124589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] In a cable to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, on the occasion of his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Moscow this evening, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss expressed the hope that Lebanon will receive the due attention it deserves during the talks.

Dr al-Huss added that Lebanon's persistent tragedy, which has been caused mainly by the Israeli occupation of Lebanon's land, has posed a challenge to the international will and human values since the issuance of Security Council Resolution 425 more than 11 years ago. Israel, Dr al-Huss went on to say, continues its attacks on Lebanon and its people, violates legitimate human rights, and perists in its expansionist plans.

In his cable, Dr al-Huss reiterated his appreciation for the Soviet stand that sympathizes with Lebanon and supports its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and the unity of its land and people.

Dr al-Huss stated that he is pinning hope on the Arab committee's task to curb the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon, implement the Arab League resolutions, establish a cease-fire, lift the blockades imposed on all sea ports and airports, and reopen the crossing points. These tasks are preparatory to enabling the Arab committee to find a just solution of the Lebanese crisis, restore Lebanon's unity, and safeguard the Lebanese people's legitimate rights.

Dr al-Huss continued: We have no doubt that your support for the Arab committee will greatly help it achieve positive results and serve Lebanon, its national issue, and its people.

Prime Minister al-Huss Leaves for Damascus 9 May
NC0905122989 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss headed for Damascus today to hold talks with Syrian officials on recent developments.

League Envoy, Force Commander Due in Beirut
NC0905065389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Lakhdar Ibrahimi, assistant Arab League secretary general, arrived in Damascus on an urgent mission which aims to prevent the collapse of the cease-fire to enable the Arab observers to come to Lebanon and implement the Tunis resolutions.

Ibrahimi and Brigadier General 'Ali al-Mu'min, commander of the Arab observer force, are due to arrive in Beirut tomorrow. They will conduct consultations with the parties concerned in a bid to curb the deterioration which has undermined the Arab League resolutions and is bound to obstruct the Arab League's efforts for a solution.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss held constant contacts with the competent officials over the situation. He called the Arab League secretary general and urged him to dispatch the Arab observers as soon as possible.

PSP on Government's 'Negligence,' 'Hesitation'
NC0805152389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 8 May 89

[Excerpts] The Political Bureau of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] met today under the chairmanship of Walid Junblatt and issued the following statement:

First, the PSP Political Bureau views the continuation of the security escalation by Al-Yarzah Army as further evidence of the importance of the PSP remarks on the Arab League resolution. The one-sided interpretation of the Arab League resolution and the concentration on establishing and supervising a cease-fire have proven to be mistakes.

The only way to tackle the Lebanese problem is through political means, that is, by ending the schemes of sectarian domination and military rule and by ending the links between the isolationists and Israel.

The PSP Political Bureau noted that the Arab observer mission should be interpreted in a way that precludes its use as a respite to reinforce the military power of the Al-Yarzah group, something that could lead to a renewal of fighting in a fiercer and more devastating manner.

The Political Bureau called on the Arab committee to adhere to the content and spirit of the Arab League Council's resolution. This resolution aims at preserving Lebanon's unity of territories, people, and institutions, as well as its sovereignty, independence, and Arab character. [passage omitted]

Second, regarding the mounting social crisis, shortages of such essential commodities as flour, cooking gas, the lawless exploitation of the rackets, and the nationalist government's reluctance to tackle these problems, the Political Bureau called for serious confrontation of daily life problems, as these problems are an integral part of the nationalist battle.

The PSP Political Bureau expressed surprise with the role of the nationalist government which is taking its duties too lightly and is ignoring the basic services which are the mainstay of nationalist steadfastness and the basis for the confrontation with the isolationist designs.

While allocations for fuel and for the Army continue to be made to East Beirut, Prime Minister al-Huss declines to approve of the allocations for electricity and the renovation of Al-Jiyah power plant. Al-Huss also hesitates to approve the funds and assistance to hospitals in the nationalist areas and denies funds to the mountain council's and the Beirut projects council's programs. He has also frozen the allocations for the Public Works Ministry and for other social and development programs, citing budget constraints as a pretext. [passage omitted]

The PSP Political Bureau calls on the nationalist government once again to undertake its responsibilities to help the public withstand the hardships. The bureau reminds the government that the nationalist forces have given it their support in order to have a political authority capable of organizing the affairs of the nationalist parties.

The government's current negligence of the public's needs and its hesitation to make the necessary and suitable decisions in the midst of the national battle would turn this government into an obstacle in the way of the unity and strength of the nationalist position. The government's current behavior also casts doubt on the prime minister's political line.

The Political Bureau called for immediate and serious measures to tackle the problem of basic supplies before the crisis gets out of hand and takes on serious political and national dimensions.

Al-Khatib Command Notes Escalation by 'Awn

NC0805203989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] The Army Command's Guidance Directorate in Beirut issued a statement this evening in which it said: The Al-Yarzah Command has continued to involve our comrades in the eastern area in the process of realizing 'Awn's dreams for the presidency, in the name of a so-called impossible and rejected liberation war and also in the name of controlling ports which were originally built to provide relief to people from his blockades of the nationalist areas.

The Army Command added: Since last night, the Al-Yarzah artillery has been shelling the residential neighborhoods in West Beirut, the southern suburb, the mountain, and Al-Biqa' in search of the Syrian artillery emplacements in the upper floors of buildings, hospitals, schools, and humanitarian institutions. It has caused more innocent victims and destruction in property.

The Army Command statement added: This escalation came prior to the arrival of the two Arab League representatives in order to embarass the Arab League and frustrate its redemptive efforts. In light of this situation, our forces and the targeted nationalist forces were compelled to return fire at the artillery emplacements and the command centers in Nahr Bayrut, Al-Mukallis, Al-Mansuriyah, Bayt Miri, Tal al-Za'tar, Hursh Thabit, and Brummanah.

Officials Report Arrival of Flour, Oil Shipments

NC0805165189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 May 89

[Excerpts] Dr Muhammad Sh'aytu, head of the supplies committee, has announced that a ship carrying 7,000 tons of flour is being unloaded in Sidon. He said cargo will be distributed equally, and will be protected by the security force patrols. Sh'aytu said that another ship carrying 2,000 tons of flour will be arriving shortly. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Walid Mawlawi, director general of the Tripoli oil installations, said that a tanker loaded with 17,500 tons of fuel has docked in Al-Munsha'at harbor. He said the shipment is bound for the Al-Zuq power plant. The official said that the tanker cannot be unloaded because of insufficient storage tanks at the harbor. Mawlawi said that this problem is being examined by Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

Asked about the gas shortage, Mawlawi said that a tanker carrying gas has unloaded its cargo in the Al-Munsha'at harbor. He added that 40 tons of gas are being delivered to distributors daily.

Fuel Reaches Power Plant

NC0905071089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Five hundred tons of fuel transported by 17 trucks arrived at the Al-Zuq thermal power plant from Tripoli yesterday. Another 300 tons of fuel from Tripoli had already arrived at the same plant on Sunday [7 May].

Eng Ilyas al-Nammar, chairman of the board of the electricity company, has stated that this quantity is sufficient for the minimum level of production and is enough to distribute electricity by rotation for 2 hours out of every 24 hours.

He added that similar quantities of fuel will be supplied daily to the Al-Zuq plant from Tripoli until an agreement is reached to allow the tanker "Penhors" to anchor off the Al-Zuq plant and unload its cargo of fuel.

8 May Shelling Casualty Toll Updated

NC0905061589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Guarded calm reigns along the combat lines which were the scenes of violent clashes from 1430 to 2330 yesterday. The exchange of shellfire involved most of the residential districts in the capital, the southern suburb, the mountain, and the central Al-Biqa'.

According to an initial toll by AFP, 13 people were killed and dozens of others wounded. There was also grave material damage to property and commercial establishments.

The exchange of shell and rocket fire has caused a series of car fires. Civil defense teams managed to extinguish some of the fires despite limited resources.

In another report citing hospital sources, AFP said that at least 13 people were killed and 93 others wounded.

Syrian Tanks Shell Communications Center

NC0905085589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Lebanon has been cut off from the outside world, since the Syrian occupiers shelled the international communications center with T-62 tank guns. Their aim is to prevent the Lebanese from telling the world about their barbarous shelling of secure residential areas and humanitarian institutions.

The Syrians have renewed their bombardment of the eastern areas this morning. The area extending from the periphery of Beirut port and the Al-Matn coast came under Syrian artillery fire from the hotel and Normandie areas at 0930 today.

At 1010, the scope of the bombardment was extended to the Kasrawan coast, where three shells landed. The Al-Matn coast was subjected to a number of shells at 1000. The periphery of Bkirki was also the target of a rocket shell.

According to security sources in West Beirut, people driving cars have advised citizens to go to the shelters, claiming that the area may come under bombardment. It is worth noting that nothing of the sort has taken place today.

According to information available to the Voice of Lebanon, a state of alert has been declared among the Syrian positions in West Beirut.

Italian Embassy Hit by Shell; No Casualties

LD0805181589 Rome International Service in Italian 1730 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] The Italian Embassy in West Beirut was shelled this afternoon. The building was hit by a shell while intense bombing was—and still is—going on. Fortunately, the building was empty when it was hit by a shell, so there should be no casualties or injuries. Italian civil servants and the embassy staff do not work in the afternoon.

Shelling of West Beirut, Other Areas Detailed

NC0805182789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Since 1430 today, Michel 'Awn's Zionized militias renewed their indiscriminate shelling of the residential areas, public facilities, roads, and cultural centers in West Beirut. 'Alayh also came under intermittent shelling.

At 1500, the shelling expanded to include Al-Biqa', Al-Matn, Al-Mazra'ah, Ra's Bayrut, and Al-Hamra.

At 1510, artillery shells fell on Verdun, Al-Tariq al-Jadidah, and in the vicinity of the Kuwaiti Embassy in West Beirut, as well as on several sectors of the southern Beirut suburb.

At 1520, shells began falling on Al-Jurd, Al-Matn, Al-Shuwayfat, Al-Shahhar, Al-Awza'i, and several sectors of West Beirut and 'Alayh.

At 1545, all areas of West Beirut were targets of intensive and indiscriminate shelling. 'Awn militias used phosphorous shells to cause more fires and damage to property. 'Alayh was still a target of shelling.

At 1600, fierce fighting took place on Ra's al-Nab' combat line and shells fell on West Beirut. Similar clashes took place on the southern suburb front.

At 1630, clashes took place on Baysur combat lines during which Baysur came under concentrated shelling.

At 1700, 'Awn militias shelled Verdun and Al-Mazra'ah in West Beirut. It was reported that the Soviet cultural center was hit by shells and that the library and the language center were considerably damaged.

Al-Hamra, Ra's Bayrut, Al-Raml al-'Ali, Beirut's southern suburb, and 'Alayh remained targets of violent shelling.

At 1800, Al-Matn, Baysur, 'Aynab, Al-Shahhar and several areas of West Beirut continued to be targets of shelling.

At 1900, Burj Abu Haydar, 'A'ishah Bakkar, Al-Mazra'ah, Ra's Bayrut and other West Beirut areas were still targets of shelling.

Fighting is still going on this moment. Most of West Beirut's neighborhoods, Al-Shuwayfat, and 'Alayh are being shelled from the positions of 'Awn's militias. The shelling left 4 people killed and 20 injured.

Al-Biqa' Missile Site Reportedly Destroyed
NC0805193989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Columns of smoke are rising from scores of fires that have enveloped the bombarded areas. The fires have replaced electricity in lighting the streets and residential areas. Intermittent Syrian shelling of the eastern areas continues. At times it is accurate and at times indiscriminate.

Shells have been falling on Al-Ashrafiyah, southern Matn, and the coastal area of northern Al-Matn since 1930 today. Thousands of shells fell on residential quarters and destroyed facilities in more than one area, causing immeasurable losses and further human casualties.

Lebanese Army units responded in an appropriate manner to the aggressor Syrian artillery emplacements in the areas where they were located. Channel 2 of French television interrupted its programs this evening to broadcast the following report:

While responding to the Syrian bombardment, the Lebanese Army succeeded in destroying a surface-to-air missile base in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' area.

This explains the insane rage which the Syrians showed in their bombardment and destruction of the liberated area this afternoon.

Afghanistan

Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Received by Najibullah

LD0805184289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, this morning at the Gol Khanah Palace—the Presidential Headquarters—received Nathan Shamuyarira, the foreign minister of Zimbabwe. At the beginning of the meeting, a message from Robert Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, addressed to the Afghan president, was presented to him by the foreign minister.

His Excellency Nathan Shamuyarira said that the Zimbabwean president is very concerned about the recent developments in the Republic of Afghanistan, and is not pleased that the Geneva accords are not being observed and that peace has not yet been achieved in the Republic of Afghanistan. The Zimbabwean foreign minister expressed his country's support for the observance and implementation of the Geneva accords, commencement of dialogue and negotiation among the Afghans, and the formation of a broadbased coalition government. He added that the foreign interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan will end very soon, at which point war and fratricide will immediately halt in Afghanistan.

Esteemed Najibullah then welcomed the initiative by His Excellency Robert Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, to suggest a visit by the Zimbabwean foreign minister to Islamabad, Kabul, and Moscow to find a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan. Moreover, he pledged any type of cooperation and assistance of the Republic of Afghanistan for the implementation of this humane and noble work.

He also spoke in detail and comprehensively about the country's political and military situation since the withdrawal of the Soviet military contingents and about the situation and developments which have been created recently as a result of the intensification of Pakistani aggression and interference in Afghan affairs.

He also spoke about the practical aspects of observing and implementing the Geneva accords on the part of the Republic of Afghanistan and the full withdrawal of the Soviet military contingents, and about the cases of flagrant and obvious violations of the Geneva accords by the United States and Pakistan. He described the intensification and expansion of that country's direct interference and aggression in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan as a great threat of further aggravation of the situation in the region and [word indistinct] for peace and security.

Noting the humane and peace-loving intentions of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan to begin talks and dialogue with the leaders of the groups of seven and eight, and other concerned sides. Esteemed Najibullah expressed the readiness of the Republic of Afghanistan to begin talks and negotiations with the opposition without any preconditions, anywhere, at any level, and with the mediation of international organizations and countries.

In conclusion, Esteemed Najibullah expressed the hope that, just as the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement made the necessary efforts and cooperated in finalizing the Geneva talks between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan, he also will assist in order to fully implement the Geneva accords and find a political solution to the problems of Afghanistan.

Delivers Mugabe Message

LD0805185989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 May 89

["Text" of message from Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to President Najibullah, delivered by Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira in Kabul on 8 May]

[Text] Your Excellency President Najibullah: I have the honor, following my letter dated 14 March 1989, to introduce to Your Excellency Nathan Shamuyarira, minister of foreign affairs of Zimbabwe, who is my special envoy. I am confident that Your Excellency will receive him and have full confidence that he is conveying my true feelings.

As I pointed out in my previous letter, the tragic developments and the situation in and around Afghanistan have become a matter of profound sorrow and concern for me and many others. However, the search and hope for maintaining peace in Afghanistan and the stability of the situation as a whole in the region, in particular after the signing of the Geneva accords which were concluded under UN auspices in April, 1988, should not be abandoned.

All the parties concerned should speed up their efforts to maintain a true and lasting peace in Afghanistan and achieve stability in relations and coexistence between Afghanistan and Pakistan on the basis of the Geneva accords.

As I have mentioned in my letter, the Nonaligned Movement will concentrate its all-round support in this regard. My special envoy who will visit Islamabad and hold talks with that country's high authorities during his working program, is authorized to hold talks with you and the high authorities of your country. With best regards to Your Excellency, Comrade President.

[Signed] President of Zimbabwe and Chairman of the Nonaligned Movement

Meets With 'Abdul Wakil

LD0805193889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] This morning Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil met with His Excellency Nathan Shumuyarira, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe, at the Foreign Ministry. Speaking about the Kabul visit of his counterpart as the representative of a country which currently heads the Nonaligned Movement, the Afghan foreign minister said that this visit is an important and historic event and manifests the peaceful views of His Excellency Robert Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe, and the people of that country. No doubt, the relations between the two countries will expand and consolidate.

Expressing the Republic of Afghanistan's desire for the complete implementation of the Geneva accords to stop the war and bloodshed, the foreign minister said the the view of the majority of the UN Security Council members favors the complete implementation of the Geneva accords. Only the United States, Britain, Malaysia, Comoros, and Saudi Arabia—of all the participants and speakers in the Security Council—supported a military solution.

Describing the start of fighting in Jalalabad and the gallant and patriotic defense by the Armed Forces in the city of Jalalabad, the foreign minister said that military methods cannot solve the problem of Afghanistan. The only way to stop war and bloodshed in the country is peace, conciliation, and dialogue between Afghans and the forces involved.

The foreign ministers of the two countries also talked about the forthcoming conference of the Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers. The Zimbabwean foreign minister furnished information on his country's preparations for the holding of this meeting.

'Pessimistic' Regarding Peace

BK0805132289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1315 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 8 (AFP)—A special envoy from the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) left here Monday after talks with President Najibullah, sounding a pessimistic note of prospects for early peace in Afghanistan.

"There are still sharp differences between Pakistan and the mujahidin on the one hand and the Kabul government on the other hand," Zimbabwe Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarirah told reporters at a brief press conference before his departure for Harare via Tashkent and London.

However, the minister said his missions to Pakistan, where he met with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and mujahidin leaders, and to Moscow, where he met with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, had left him with "mixed feelings."

Despite the differences, both sides in the Afghan conflict desire to solve the problem, he said, adding that Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, who is the NAM chairman, planned to present a peace formula at the body's ministerial conference in Harare next week.

He declined to disclose details of the formula, other than to say that NAM was coordinating efforts with the United Nations, and to add that his current rounds of talks had not included contacts with former Afghan King Zahir Shah, now in exile in Italy.

The king has been repeatedly mentioned in the search for a solution to the 10-year-old Afghan war because of the belief that a large number of politically uncommitted Afghans would rally to any call he made for elections.

The foreign minister's five-hour visit to Kabul included talks with President Najibullah and with Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, who will be at the Harare conference.

Neither Mr. Wakil nor Mr. Shamuyarirah would comment on the contents of the talks other than to describe them as "fruitful."

Departs for Moscow

LD0805194589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] His Excellency Nathan Shumuyaria, foreign minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe, who arrived this morning in Kabul on a working visit, left Kabul at midday to return home via Moscow. Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil and a number of high-ranking officials of that ministry; and Yuliy Vorontsov, the Soviet ambassador and representative plenipotentiary to Kabul, saw off the Zimbabwean foreign minister at Kabul International Airport.

Najibullah Receives Pakistani Party Leader

LD0905101889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met today with 'Abdul Wali Khan, the great Pashtu leader who is leader of Pakistan's Awami National Party.

During the meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, esteemed Najibullah and 'Abdul Wali Khan spoke about regional issues and about threats to the peace and security of the countries in this region of the world. The president of Afghanistan expressed happiness at the constructive position of the president of the Awami National Party concerning the present realities in the region.

Najibullah's Invitation to 'Arafat Accepted

LD0705161889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 May 89

[Text] An official invitation has been extended from esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, to His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, head of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee, to pay a friendly visit to the Republic of Afghanistan. The invitation has been accepted with profound appreciation. The date and time for the visit will be determined later.

'Extremists' Killed, Wounded in Various Provinces

LD0705142689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 7 May 89

[Text] An authorative source in the Armed Forces informed BAKHTAR's military section that the armed extremists, supported by Pakistan, ignored the holiness of the sacred days of 'Id al-Fitr and, contrary to our religious norms and tenets, launched heavy weapons fire yesterday, the first day of 'Id al-Fitr, on areas of Nangarhar, Paktia, and Laghman Provinces and Khowst Major District. Our brave Armed Forces retaliated and foiled the vain efforts of our people's enemies.

The source added that yesterday the enemy's joint forces, which include armed Pakistanis, Saudi Wahhabis, and armed extremists fired missiles and heavy weapons on Jalalabad city, its security posts, and residential areas. As a result, two people were martyred and six others injured. Also, two houses were destroyed and a tanker was burned down.

The Armed Forces source added that the brave units and companies stationed in Nangarhar Province, who defend and protect the country's independence, national sovereignty, and national integrity with hard fighting and self-sacrifice against the aggression of the enemy's joint forces, inflicted many casualities with heavy weapons fire. As a result, 61 of the enemy forces were killed and 38 were injured. An arms and ammunition dump, 2 DShK's, 15 various types of infantry weapons, and a BM-13 system [as heard] of the extremists were destroyed.

According to another report, the extremists attached to Pakistan fired heavy weapons on to some regions of Paktia and Laghman Provinces and Khowst Major District. As a result, one person was martyred and two others injured in Laghman Province. The injured included two children in Paktia Province. Eight houses, two mosques, and eight shops were also damaged. Thirteen people were injured in Khowst major District.

As a result of retaliation by our Armed Forces in Khowst Major District, 45 enemies were killed and 9 others injured. Six light weapons and eight pack-animals carrying arms and ammunition belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

Arms and ammunition which had been brought to the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan from other side of the border in order to disrupt the peaceful life of our compatriots were discovered and seized recently in Qandahar Province by the brave Armed Forces of the country. BAKHTAR's military section reports that the arms and ammunition, seized by the Armed Forces with the all-round cooperation of the people, include dozens of surface-to-surface missiles, hundreds of hand grenades, light weapons, and enough ammunition for various types of weapons.

Islamabad Sums up Jalalabad, Khowst Situation

BK0805022689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are continuing shelling on the positions of Kabul regime troops in Jalalabad, while Kabul regime war planes have bombed the mujahidin's positions near Jalalabad and Khowst. It is reported that the mujahidin are assembling near Khowst to capture the city.

Kabul regime has imposed new restrictions on travel to stop the people from fleeing Jalalabad. Most of the people faced with food scarcity are trying to leave the city.

Jalalabad Fighting Intensifies

BK0805154189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] The fighting in Jalalabad sector in Afghanistan has intensified. People arriving in Kabul from the Jalalabad area say that the fighting has spread to Sarowbi on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway. The mujahidin shot down a Kabul regime aircraft which was bombing the suburbs of Jalalabad today.

India

Spokesman Denies 'Secret Talks' Held With Nepal

BK0805130189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] An official spokesman described as a piece of fiction a news report—which appeared in a section of the press today—that the foreign ministers of India and Nepal are holding secret talks in New Delhi to resolve the differences. In response to a query by newsmen, he clarified that no such talks are going on in this regard.

The spokesman also said that the Indian Government requested Nepal last month to furnish full details of the agenda, level, venue, and dates for talks. He said India did not receive either complete or satisfactory response from the Nepalese Government so far.

The spokesman said further steps will be taken after hearing from the Nepalese Government.

Home Minister on President's Rule in Punjab
BK0805161889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] The Lok Sabha today took up for discussion a statutory resolution for extension of the president's rule in Punjab for another 6 months from Thursday. Moving the resolution, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, said that in the governor's view a strong and committed administration can be provided only under the president's rule to tackle the present situation. The determination to fight the forces of terrorism, disunity, and antinational elements must not be diluted or wavered in any way.

The home minister said that in the assessment of the governor, elections to the assembly in the present uncertain situation in the state are likely to result in further confusion and chaos. He is also of the view that no party will be able to form a stable government and run the administration in accordance with the constitution.

The home minister said that the governor's report has stated that terrorism has been contained to a great extent since the imposition of president's rule 2 years ago. Since January this year, only 82 police stations have recorded terrorist crimes compared to 143 police stations last year. While the number of killings is still large, most of these are not for achieving any separatist or fundamentalist ideology. Those are committed mainly for reasons, such as, robbery, kidnapping, land grabbing, extortion, and looting.

The home minister said 827 terrorists were killed in the last 2 years and nearly 7,500 arrested. This demonstrates the fearless manner in which the police and the security forces are fighting terrorism.

Mr Buta Singh dwelt at length on certain improvements achieved during the president's rule and explained the steps taken under the prime minister's package to restore complete normalcy in the state. He also refers to the considerable progress achieved in the economic sphere. The growth rate, which was reduced to 3 percent in 1987, is again increasing and is likely to reach 8 percent shortly, Mr Buta Singh added.

The discussion on the resolution was marked by a procedural wrangle lasting about 20 minutes. Opposition members argued that they were not given adequate time to move amendments to the resolution as the item was taken up under a supplementary agenda. The deputy speaker assured them that sufficient time will be given to the members to express their views and the debate will be continued tomorrow.

'Third Batch' of Troops Returns From Sri Lanka
BK0805031089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] The Citizens Forum of Madras extended a rousing welcome to the third batch of the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] men and officers in Madras yesterday. The chairman of the forum and the former governor of Kerala, Mr Ramachandran, offered momentos to the PKF men and officers who reached Madras by ship from Sri Lanka.

Armed Youths Attack Bus in West Bengal, Kill 3
BK0905025889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] In West Bengal, three persons, including two police constables, were killed when armed miscreants attacked a bus at Gangarampur in West Dinajpur District. Three passengers, including a constable, were injured. According to the state police chief, the bus was on its way from Balurghat to Siliguri when seven armed youths boarded it and opened fire at the armed policemen who were escorting the bus.

Parliament Briefed on Defense Production Program
BK0905080089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, today categorically stated that no one can put any curbs on India insofar as development of indigenous technology in areas of defense is concerned. He said India's missile program is an indigenous effort and our engineers and scientists are working on it. Replying to supplementaries in the Rajya Sabha today, the minister said the government will go ahead with modernization of technology and upgradation of equipment.

In reply to a question, Mr Pant said India and the United States are cooperating in several areas including training of service officers and reciprocal visits. He said Indian technocrats in defense received training in several programs in America. The United States has also shown its keen desire for training of its scientists in some of the disciplines in India.

The minister admitted that there has been slow progress in the development of the Light Combat Aircraft [LCA] for the Air Force, but now a consular level officer has been posted in America to look after the LCA project requirements.

About India's role in maintaining regional peace, the minister said no one should look upon us as policeman in the region. Whenever friendly countries asked for help we responded.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Attitude on Trade
BK0605145989 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 6 May 89

[Commentary by Tiag Raj Sharma of ECONOMIC TIMES entitled: "India Refuses United States Trade Domination"]

[Text] India's determination to pursue its own policies and national interests notwithstanding American threats of trade sanctions will give a much needed confidence to

Indians in particular and the developed world in general. Of late, the impression had gathered that India had more or less succumbed to U.S. pressure over the intellectual property rights and allied issues at the recently concluded Geneva meet.

India's decision to agree to discuss the patents issue recently under the aegis of GATT was taken as a sign of its weakness. Its categorical refusal to dilute its policies to suit American interests during the recently concluded talks with the U.S. delegation has, however, put the record straight.

The U.S. delegation had come to discuss policy issues in the wake of certain provisions of the U.S. Trade Act 1988. Under this, U.S. officials are holding consultations with countries which allegedly discourage its exports and investments. Japan, Brazil, South Korea, and India incidently figure prominently in the list of countries which have adopted what the U.S. sees as protectionist policies.

The U.S. move follows its growing trade deficit. India, much to the chagrin of U.S. delegation, categorically stated that it would not dilute its policies on investment, import control, official procurement, patents, foreign brand names, trade marks and secrets, and even films for that matter. U.S. officials will now report to their trade representative, Mrs Carla Hills, about their discussions. It is she who has to identify under the super 301 clause of the U.S. trade law the countries which refuse to amend their policies to suit U.S. interests.

Other things apart, the major issue involving India is the patents act. The U.S. wants India to amend the Indian patents act to cover product patent against processed patents now. If India were to do this, its entire effort in building up its pharmaceutical, and drug industry in particular, would be neutralized. Because of its patent act, the Indian drug industry has been able to develop, so much so that Indian drugs are even exported. Equally important, it is because of the processed patent followed by India that drugs and medicines in the country are so cheap. If it were otherwise, practically every drug would be outside the reach of the common man.

If India and other developing countries were to accede to the U.S. demand for product patent, especially with a patent life of 20 years, this country would end up abdicating its progress for a longer span of time. Similarly, if India agrees to the U.S. demand for compulsory licensing, the foreign patent holder would simply dump its goods in the Indian market without any obligation to manufacture them locally. Likewise, if the demand for full patent for drugs, pesticides, and chemicals is conceded, the prices of all these products would shoot up. Prices of fertilizers and chemicals and, therefore, food and other items would skyrocket.

The question is why does the U.S. want India and other developing countries to change their policies and patents? The answer is not difficult. Following a global recession, there has been a surge in competition for world market. In the ensuing rush for gains, the developed countries want to divide the market amongst themselves. This can be done by getting the developing countries, they mean markets, to change their patent laws.

Liberal patent laws suiting the needs of the U.S. and its allies will increase domination of multinationals and protect their home markets. Equally serious is the fact that these changes will make technology transfers prohibitive. It is, therefore, not difficult to understand India's stand against the U.S. move. Matters, however, do not end here. The U.S. has held out threats that if India and other developing countries do not agree to its proposals, trade sanctions will be imposed against them. The U.S. which has already done this to Brazil is now threatening India. A possibility of such sanctions increases in the wake of the Section 301 of U.S. Omnibus Trade Law amended last year. Under this a host of sanctions can be imposed on nations whose laws are not in the interest of U.S. trade.

India's stand despite these threats has been based on reason and logic. It has argued that its policies have been liberalized and foreign investment is encouraged. For example, import licensing has been liberalized by placing capital goods on the open general license. The same applies to raw materials. This is only one of the many areas where India has liberalized its policies considerably.

In the wake of the growing balance of payments problems, India has also had to impose some restrictions on unnecessary imports. But this again is a matter which is purely left to the country. For, it has to decide what policy should be pursued when the U.S. and the developed world in their hunger for markets in the third world appear to have forgotten a simple maxim. The developing world will be able to purchase more from the developed countries only if it has the capacity to pay. That can come about only if the U.S. and other countries do not [as heard] open their markets for the goods of the third country. The situation will become worse.

Therefore, any talk or threat of sanction would be carefully viewed in light of the fact that we are living in a world where we have to be mutually dependent and not mutually exclusive. Of course, one now hears that not all U.S. businessmen want trade sanctions against India. If this is so, then it augurs well for Indo-U.S. relations. This is because the Indian market is really vast. With growing investment opportunities, the U.S. and Indian partners can do a lot. There is scope for growth in Indo-U.S. trade. Both sides are agreeable on this. What is necessary, however, is to realize that no amount of bullying or threats will improve these relations.

PATRIOT on UK's Pledge on Anti-Terrorism

BK0705122989 Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 Apr 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Secessionists in London"]

[Text] Almost 18 years after Mr Jagjit Singh Chauhan raised the slogan of Khalistan first at a press conference in London, a convention in London of the so-called Khalistan "government in exile" has issued fatwas [judgments], edicts and policy resolutions. It is not fortuitous that the convention at Slough last week-end should have made friendly noises about Pakistan, even pledging never to lay claims to Pakistani teritory. Suspicions about Pakistan's involvement with anti-India terrorists operating in Punjab and the evidence of this collusion adduced has never been convincingly controverted by Islamabad. It was but expected that covert linkages between the two would some day be flaunted.

Equally well-known has been the nexus between Punjab terrorists, Kashmir secessionists and the Peshawar-based Afghan mujahidin. Arms supplies and training to these groups have for years been coordinated by the notorious Inter-Services Intelligence of the Pakistan army. What is surprising, however, is that a clutch of separatists representing nobody but themselves at the convention should have formalised the relations and felt encouraged to openly incite secessionism in Kashmnir.

The spot assurance by a mujahidin representative of instant recognition of the separatists once the rebels form a government in Kabul only goes to show the extent to which the grand design for dismemberment of india has progressed. And that the conspiracies should have been hatched openly in London reflects poorly on the British Government's proclaimed determination to fight terrorism. The Thatcher Government until last year refused to take action against the separatists' anti-Indian activiites.

The need to make amends was felt when the Thatcher Government was frustrated in its efforts to get men extradited from Denmark wanted for IRA [Irish Revolutionary Army] attacks. Still, the existing legal provisions have not been utilised agianst Punjab or Kashmir secessionists. The Slough convention underlines the dangers India is facing.

Iran

Former U.S. Official on 'False' Analyses

LD0805175289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] In the wake of the U.S. failure in political, military, and intelligence conspiracies in Iran, Richard Murphy, the former U.S. undersecretary of state for Middle Eastern Affairs, has admitted that Washington failed in its analysis of the Iranian situation.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily AL-WATAN, in its latest edition, Murphy said: The Americans, through their false and unfounded analyses of the situation in Iran, proved that they are incapable of offering an accurate analysis of that country's internal developments. Murphy described the analytical apparatus of the U.S. ruling clique as incompetent in unravelling the nature of Iranian event, and said: U.S. officials, in their analyses of the nature of the moderates and the radicals in Iran's ruling system, have fallen prey to fallacies and have given some wrong and unfounded interpretations on factionalism in that country.

Murphy's admissions are published about 2 weeks after the announcement that a U.S. espionage network has been discovered in Iran.

Ex-Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani Interviewed

NC0805093689 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Apr 89 p 14

[Interview with Mohammad Javad Larijani, former deputy foreign minister, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani, former deputy minister of foreign affairs and current adviser to our foreign minister, spoke with our correspondent at the ETTELA'AT offices one afternoon this week. This friendly conversation turned into an interview on various issues. The issues discussed included: the future of the peace talks between Iran and Iraq; the outlook of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598; Iran's relations with its neighbors; Iran's diplomatic relations with West Europe, the Soviet Union and the United States; the reasons for Larijani's resignation; and other topics. The following is a text of the interview.

[Correspondent] We are here with our dear brother Dr Larijani. Dr Larijani, we thank you for attending this interview. Since we are on the eve of the peace talks between Iran and Iraq in Geneva, how would you assess these talks, the future of Resolution 598, and Iran's relations with its neighbors in the Persian Gulf?

[Larijani] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. As far as Resolution 598 is concerned, the pivotal issue is the fact that Iraq's aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran inflicted the largest blow on regional security. It truly harmed regional security and stability. It will take years to overcome the resulting effects. Our commitment to the peace process is serious and very strong. We think that Resolution 598 can become a logical path leading to the establishment of peace and security in the region and that this resolution has all the necessary ingredients to achieve this end.

Even before the compilation of this resolution, I was involved in the process. I even know the history of some of the words used in the resolution. It was Iran's view that a

paragraph on the region's future be included in the resolution. Iran's view led to the inclusion of Paragraph 5 in the resolution, as we believe that security in the Persian Gulf cannot be achieved with the presence of foreign forces. Persian Gulf security is a regional and collective issue. In other words, only the regional countries should be involved in this issue and no one is the regional gendarme. The region's security should be achieved through countries cooperating with one another.

Nevertheless, despite all the faults of the resolution—I am referring to its operational and executional faults—it is, at the same time, a document which today can pave a good path toward the establishment of regional peace and security. The main obstacle to implementing the resolution is, in my view, the fact that Iraq has a wrong idea about the resolution. I think that Iraq is trying to gain through talks whatever it was unable to gain militarily. This is very idiotic. All the world's strategists believe that if someone fails to gain an objective by resorting to military means, he will not be able to do so by resorting to political means.

They believe that the opposite of this is possible. In other words, if someone is unable to achieve an objective through political means, this objective may be gained through military means. This is the main obstacle. As far as the implementation of the resolution is concerned, I think that the UN Secretariat is weak in pushing toward this end. The secretary general has great authority to implement the resolution, but he has never used this authority precisely as he should.

I foresee a major threat to the region. This is the threat emanating from Iraq's hegemonistic intentions, not only in the region, but throughout the Arab world in general. When it comes to a regime such as Iraq, it is not hard for one to believe that it seeks to dominate the Arab world. Iraq wants to become the master of the Arab world today. In order to achieve this, it must climb the regional ladder first. In other words, it must become a dominating power in the Persian Gulf and then a dominating power in the Arab world. This is a major threat to the region, and the Iraqi regime is prepared to pay any price in order to achieve this objective.

This is precisely the element that undermines the peace process, creates problems in the talks, and threatens to create various regional incidents once again. As far as the upcoming Geneva talks are concerned, if Iraq's greedy ambitions are tackled, and if the secretary general moves decisively toward implementing the resolution's framework, we can be hopeful that we are moving toward the resolution's implementation. Otherwise, its implementation can be expected to be delayed and become a worrisome deadlock.

[Correspondent] You referred to a general commitment among our officials to the peace process, and you said this commitment is serious. Do you think that due to Iraq's insistence on its positions and its political objectives to dominate the region and the Arab world, there is a possibility for the situation to change in such a way that war between Iran and Iraq will start up again?

[Larijani] No one can say that the possibility of a fresh outbreak of the war is zero. Our commitment has two aspects. One aspect is our commitment to peace. We sincerely and strongly believe that the region needs peace, and we are prepared to do anything we can to achieve this. But the other aspect is our commitment to our territorial integrity and our national rights. Naturally, peace does not mean that the rights of a nation are trampled on. Peace and security mean that the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of all nations is safeguarded and that there is no military aggression in the region. If we are to support peace while our territorial integrity is questioned, this will not conform with peace.

We do not have any doubts about our self-defense. If we are attacked, naturally we will defend ourselves like any other government. I do not currently believe that the recurrence of another war is highly possible because Iraq still can taste defeat in its mouth and knows that war with Iran is difficult. At the same time, we cannot completely rule out this possibility either, because if greedy ambitions take priority over peace for a country, the possibility of a threat may also exist.

[Correspondent] Since Iran accepted Resolution 598, the idea emerged that Iran would move toward reconstructing its relations with the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf. This inclination was also seen among the Arab countries. However, the experience of the past few months has shown that as the deadlock in the Iran-Iraq talks continues, the process of reconstructing these relations has not been rapid. Is there a special link between the Iran-Iraq talks and the Persian Gulf rapprochement—that is, Iran's relations with those countries that were not directly involved in the war—or are these two issues completely independent from each other?

[Larijani] Of course, there is no special link beteen the talks and Iran's relations. The talks are an independent issue with their own framework and objectives. However, their progress or lack of progress directly influences Iran's relations and vice versa; that is, the progress or lack of progress in Iran's relations influences the peace talks.

Iran's relations with the regional countries was an issue even before Resolution 598. As I pointed out, the region generally suffered due to Iraq's aggression. It does not benefit any of the regional countries to confront Iran, and it does not benefit Iran if this region is insecure.

Therefore, it benefits all of us if this region enjoys security and calm and if the territorial integrity of all nations and the respect for sovereignty and cooperation among nations in the joint development of the region exist.

In my opinion, OPEC is only one of the aspects of development with great potential. Today the OPEC countries suffer terrible blows because the Persian Gulf countries, which form the nucleus of OPEC, are not aware of their own interests. Therefore, the interests of the Islamic Republic dictate that calm reigns and that cooperation and logical and just relations exist in this region. But other countries are not like this. Iraq's overtures show that the absence of regional security is in the interests of its policy. Under these circumstances, it can divide the regional countries into several groups and rule over one group on the pretext that it is confronting another. The same applies to countries that are not located in the region but which have influence.

Sometimes, it is also not in their interests for regional security to exist. I think that U.S. policy in the region has so far been based on the fact that there should be a lack of security and trust in the relations among the regional countries and on the fact that, generally speaking, everyone should fear Iran. The tension between the regional countries and Iran gives the United States an opportunity to increase its influence and presence in the region on the pretext that it is protecting countries. Therefore, one should assume that the United States is a country that does not wish for good relations between regional countries and Iran. There are also other external elements. But it benefits the regional countries to have warm and friendly relations with Iran.

[Correspondent] Mr Larijani, during the past 2 years you had an important role in the Foreign Ministry. You were directly involved in a process, one of the outcomes of which was the reconstruction of relations with some West European countries and with some of the Eastern bloc countries. What is your opinion on Iran's current relations with West Europe and on the future relations between the United States and the Soviet Union?

[Larijani] As far as my role is concerned, I should say that when I entered the Foreign Ministry, I thought that the most important thing was to establish a center to deal with the regulation of the country's foreign relations. My view was that our foreign policy should have a strong ideological backbone based on Islamic thought, Islamic outlook, and the international situation. It should be inspired by his holiness the imam's views and be aware of world realities. In other words, it should have a firm theoretical basis and a plan. We should have a strategy. Therefore, the first thing we did in the Foreign Ministry was create an office for political and international studies which I headed for about 2 years. Today, with God's help, this office has grown into a strong tree which is a source of pride.

At any rate, I want to say that our relations with the world today are extremely deep and meaningful and that the theoretical grounds for regulating relations are the basis. Of course, we have some difficulties in implementation, and these difficulties should be resolved. One of the foreign relations cases where I started the theoretical work concerned relations with the USSR. Today these relations have had major developments. Our relations have entered a new phase, atmosphere, and situation, especially since the imam's message to Gorbachev. I believe that the Afghanistan problem and the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war both played a major role in this. However, there is also another important field to which the public has possibly paid less attention. But this was something that was so precisely pointed out by the imam, and these are the deep changes that have taken place within the USSR.

Gorbachev is not a typical leader in the Soviet Union. When I returned from Moscow, I wrote in an ETTE-LA'AT editorial that in my opinion, Gorbachev should be compared only with Lenin because of the depth of his thoughts. Gorbachev does not want to rely on the situation inherited from the past. He is determined to introduce a new plan and make extremely deep changes in the Soviet Union. The political fabric in the Soviet Union has undergone major changes. For the first time, Gorbachev has removed his party opponents in a democratic fashion and the factions that participated in the elections were supporters of "perestroyka."

The main slogan of perestroyka is economic reform, and steps in this direction have been very spectacular. For example, when FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl went to the Soviet Union, the two sides agreed that Germany could invest 100 percent in the Soviet Union. The role of the private sector, the role of individuals in the management of industries, and the regionalization of industries are all major developments in the Soviet economy. Of course, the reforms are not limited only to this.

"Glasnost" is yet another slogan, and it means openness in the atmosphere of thought so that authors can write more freely, and officials can speak more freely, and so on. On the international scene, Gorbachev's slogan is new thought, and on the international scene, Gorbachev has scored many successes. Today, it is Gorbachev who has the first say in relations between East and West Europe, and his arms reduction proposals caught the West by surprise.

One of his successes has been to further separate Europe from the United States. This was a strategic move. As far as the offensive weapons proposals are concerned, Gorbachev has outdone the West. The proposals that the Soviets make on the world's economic security, on nuclear-free zones, on human rights and disarmament, or on the Afghanistan problem are serious successes. You can see that the world's attention to Gorbachev's policy on the Afghanistan problem has two aspects. One is that the United States tried to make the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan appear similar to the flight of the U.S. soldiers from Saigon. But this did not happen, and the Soviet forces left Afghanistan on the basis of an international agreement.

Gorbachev gained international prestige for this. On the other hand, the Kabul government was expected to fall immediately after the withdrawal of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan. This did not happen. The Kabul regime continues to exist today. All this shows that Gorbachev has been able to score successes in his policy in the region. In my opinion, the Soviet Union uses a new policy with all its neighbors. One thing about the new policy is that the Soviet Union used to ignore its own problems and focused its interests much further away. But today, Soviet policy begins in its own vicinity and then extends out. This is a new phenomenon. I think that our relations with the Soviet Union have a very good future as far as long-term, strategic and political cooperation is concerned.

I think that our relations with West Europe also have a bright future and the reason for this is very simple. In order for us to have logical relations with a country, we need two elements. One is the common ground of interests and the other is mutual logic. If there are no common grounds for relations with countries, then relations cannot be made to stick, even with glue. Relations do not have a future, and the mere existence of common ground is not sufficient either. For example, if in our relations with a country we believe that our interests should be safeguarded but we see that country intends to dominate us, then such relations cannot have a future due to the existence of two kinds of logic. But if the logic and assessment of both sides are close, then relations can surely have a future.

West Europe and Iran have common interests on the international level and in economic and political issues. But these are not sufficient. One of West Europe's mistakes has been that they thought that with the help of these relations they could influence our situation and, for example, tell us to do this or that concerning the issue of human rights or tell us to do that concerning our domestic affairs. In other words, they thought that they could have the same relations with us that they have with other Third World countries. This was a big mistake. But the Salman Rushdie affair and the imam's historic decree showed that Iran opted for safeguarding Islam and the revolution over safeguarding relations with West Europe.

This phenomenon made the Europeans correct their logic. I think that with the existing common grounds, their logic should be based on non-intervention. In other words, they have realized that Iran should never be given options, and that when it comes to choosing between its revolution and interests and its relations with one country or another, Iran will undoubtedly choose the revolution and Islam. I think that a readjustment of logic and the existence of common grounds in relations manifest the fact that the future of just and logical relations between Iran and West European countries is bright.

[Correspondent] Mr Larijani, the part of my question on relations with the United States, and specifically the situation in which we and the Americans find ourselves, remains unanswered. Generally speaking, it appears now that the Reagan administration has come to an end and the Bush cabinet has assumed power, the new administration is making a general assessment of all the fields of foreign policy. Do you believe that a change could take place in the current situation that exists between Iran and the United States?

[Larijani] In my opinion, there are three groups in the United States, each of which has its own special views and policies concerning Iran. Therefore, there are three possible scenarios which confront the new cabinet. The first group believes that blows and pressures should be inflicted on Iran in the belief that it is only through pressure that relations with Iran can start at a level much lower than before. This policy does not have many supporters in the United States. In other words, U.S. politicians often think that the blows and pressures that have been inflicted on Iran so far have not benefited relations and that Iran is not broken by these blows but, on the contrary, is strengthened and continues its revolution with more persistence.

The second group supports the opposite of this policy. These are the people who had McFarlane-type views. This group believes that pressure on Iran should be halted immediately. They say that the United States should take the first steps toward Iran, and, in this respect, believe that McFarlane's trip to Iran was correct but that the method used was wrong. Therefore, these people say that this step should be taken in a correct way, and they also believe that there is nothing wrong with the United States taking the first step nor with speaking in a friendly manner with Iran and condemning past policies. This group is supported by the Bush cabinet and by cabinet advisers.

The third group believes that pressure on Iran should end immediately, but they oppose what the McFarlane group believes; namely, that the first step should be taken by the United States. They believe that talks should start with Iran on more detailed issues and that some concessions should be granted in the talks with Iran to prepare gradually the proper atmosphere for relations. I believe that the current U.S. Cabinet falls in this third category.

Of course, there is another point which should be mentioned: The Americans believe that not all the West European countries should have relations with Iran. In other words, Europe should be presented to Iran together with the United States as a package deal. Therefore, if relations are established with all of Western Europe, then the Americans will certainly be upset, and, therefore, will try to stop this. They believe that Iran should have relations with some European countries, and that relations with the rest should be contingent on relations with the United States.

In other words, the United States and Europe should be offered to Iran as one package. In my opinion, they have been unable to impose this policy on the Europeans. I do not rule out the fact that this is one of the main reasons why the United States was so active in the Salman Rushdie affair. I believe that American pressure is one of the reasons for Germany's recent behavior in its relations with Iran.

[Correspondent] You spoke about a group in the Bush cabinet and a series of deals. What do you mean by deals?

[Larijani] I was referring to secondary issues. For example, a large part of our property has been frozed there and they also possibly have some legal and financial claims against us. They can turns these affairs into grounds by which they can show they want to change their policy toward us. The main obstacle in these relations is that the Americans want their relations with us to be based on a dominating position, and this is impossible. Are the Americans willing to change their policy? If they are, we should see this in deeds and in words. But we cannot have trust. The third group wants us to begin from more secondary issues.

[Correspondent] In your remarks you spoke about U.S. pressure on some European countries; namely, on Germany as far as the quality of relations with Iran is concerned. After the Rushdie affair, a great rift emerged in relations between Iran and Germany which, in your opinion, stemmed from U.S. pressures. What is your assessment of this?

[Larijani] You may be asking about what problem exists between the United States and Germany. The most important problem that has emerged between the United States and Germany is the issue of Europe's future. The Germans are strong standard-bearers of European unity. European unity is not merely an economic unity. The creation of the Common Market is the manifestation of a political intention in the form of an economic organization. The Europeans say: We are a 350-million-strong population with first rate industrial, technological, and scientific potential. There is no reason why we should be torn into pieces. They say: Why should our relations with the world be a branch of U.S. relations with other countries?

For example, the Americans say that Europe's relations with the Soviet Union always should be in coordination with U.S. relations with the Soviet Union, and similar to U.S. relations with the Third World. The Europeans say: Why should we behave like this? This "why" is stronger today than in the past. In the past, the Europeans were the major trade partners of the United States. But, today, the Pacific countries are considered to be the major trade partners of the United States.

The Europeans say: If we want our economy to grow and to flourish, then we should have a market. The United States does not buy; therefore, Europe's products should be channeled to other countries. Europe says: In order to preserve these markets, we should regulate our political relations at a par with them. An example of this was Helmut Kohl's visit to the Soviet Union, which is considered to be a turning point in Europe's relations with the Soviet Union.

I believe that the problems between the United States and Germany start from this point. Germany would benefit most from Europe's unity. It also is the standard-bearer of this unity, and the implementation of this policy has started in practice. Thus, pressures are being inflicted on Germany one after the other.

Last week we witnessed important changes in the German Cabinet. The ministers of economy, internal affairs, and security were changed. These people were significant. Genscher's recent defeat in the elections in some places like Bavaria shows that the Americans are serious in their pressures on Germany. The same applies to the issue of Iran. I think that the Germans were forced to reverse their relations with Iran because of U.S. pressures. The impact of this pressure possibly may be seen in Germany's relations with the Soviet Union and the Third World.

[Correspondent] Mr Larijani, you resigned from your position in the Foreign Ministry in late Esfand [month ending 20 March]. Please explain the reasons for your resignation and tell us what you are doing now.

[Larijani] First of all, I am an extremely small servant of this system and my entry into or exit from a job is not an important matter. The Foreign Ministry is under the supervision of our dear brother, Mr Velayati. I am extremely fond of him. He is an outstanding and pious man who is trusted by the leadership, by all officials, and by the people. He truly is a person whom the nation can trust. Of course, there are no differences between us with regard to foreign policy issues and principles. However, there were some differences between us on modes of implementation, and these did have an impact on my decision.

On the other hand, basically speaking, I am not very eager to shoulder a heavy daily workload, but want to spend my time thinking and planning about the regulation of foreign policy. My interest lies in policy of theoretical alternatives. The sum of these two—that is, differences of views in matters of execution and my main inclination toward long-term planning and my interest in strategic discussions in foreign policy—all led to my resignation from executive activities. Of course, I am still serving the Foreign Ministry and am acting as Mr Velayati's adviser. I am doing whatever I can in the foreign policy area, in implementing

the views of his holiness the imam, and in helping Mr Velayati. This takes up part of my time every day. I also have another job—teaching and research in mathematics and in physics.

[Correspondent] Do you think that the time was right for your resignation in view of the Salman Rushdie affair?

[Larijani] The issue of the timing should be discussed from two aspects. One is the domestic aspect and the other is the foreign aspect. The domestic aspect concerns me more. For example, the timing of the resignation would have been an issue had I had a specific political program to implement. But I am not someone who would think like this. Therefore, I made this decision to maintain unity in the foreign policy sphere. Mr Velayati is the minister in charge, and the person legally in charge.

He is a strong cabinet minister. It is very important for foreign policy to be headed by a strong and extremely well-informed minister who will be able to put forward his views on executive matters strongly. I serve under such a person and, as I said, we do not have any differences in principles. This is why I continue to help the Foreign Ministry with regard to theoretical issues. I believe that in the long run, it is to the benefit of the system for ministers to be able to carry out their executive duties in a strong and united way.

Editorial on U.S. 'Non-Stop' Espionage

NC0805184889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Apr 89 p 2

[Editorial: "W. Germany Turns Spy To Please U.S."]

[Text] Last Wednesday Information Minister Mohammadi-Reyshahri briefed the nation over the discovery of an extensive U.S. spy ring in the country in a televised broadcast.

Before him the whistle had been blown on the big catch by Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

U.S. spy activities in Iran comes as a surprise to no one, as the bullying power just cannot let go of its once famed "island of security" in the region, a dream that was shattered by the mighty Islamic Revolution of 1979.

Iran's geopolitical importance in the region coupled with decades of the American domination of all the nation's resources appears to be tempting enough for the U.S. Administration to be involved in non-stop espionage in this country.

It has to be noted that the erstwhile master actually ran Iran after the coup in August 1953 and right through until February 1979.

Espionage in itself has become part and parcel of imperialist policies of the U.S. and other world powers towards other nations especially those of the Third World.

What has been so far unearthed in the official account of this last American scandal in Iran underscores two points for deliberation: First, the U.S. attempt to make use (or abuse in better words), of human emotions like the love of a father for his son who is a student in the U.S. According to Iranian officials U.S. has tried to recruit a number of Iranian parents who asked for visas to visit their children in America. The U.S. has made "visa for spy activities" a notorious barter. This reflects the depth of moral decline to which the American leadership has crashed in maintaining their imperialist interests.

Second, the U.S. exploitation of Western European embassies in the four corners of the globe for its own spy activities in host countries. This indeed can plunge many a European government into crisis if only the Western media do not, as they usually do, spread a smoke screen over the issue. By resorting to facetious sensationalism the media usually divert the public opinion from the unravelling of scandal. Censorship of the "liberal kind" and distortion are already at work to prevent a full grasp of the shameful collusion in espionage between the U.S. and many European governments.

Along this line Prime Minister Musavi has already disclosed that undeniable evidence is at hand implicating West Germany to be deeply involved in American spy activities in the Islamic Republic.

Given the fact that Bonn now is in possession of all the paraphernalia it needs to pursue an independent policy within its framework of national interests it is indeed a thorny question why it is still acting as a U.S. satellite?

West Germany, however, cannot at all resort to the cheap pretext that its collaboration with U.S. espionage is done with NATO considerations as other NATO members such as Greece are most likely out of these notorious activities.

The rootcause of such shameful links should be sought in the nature of the system ruling over West Germany.

It is probably in view of such German servitude towards Washington that some West European countries have begun to doubt the plan for the "Big Europe" as pursued by Bonn and Paris.

TV Program on U.S. 'Espionage' Reviewed

LD0605212189 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Following the discovery of an American spy network in Iran, Channel 1 of the Islamic Republic of Iran's television, by broadcasting a documentary program entitled "Secret Operations" has embarked on

surveying the issue of espionage in the world and has meanwhile screened part of the confessions made by those recently arrested in the U.S. spy network in Iran.

Among these individuals, soldiers, actors, and even students of theology can be seen. This collection of (?fearless) individuals, who specifically do not enjoy any special competence for spying activities owing to their social status, physical, and mental powers, is well indicative of the deep need of the powerful countries in having access to information.

The United States [word indistinct] first in this regard. The said television program, which surveyed the issue of espionage, making use of interesting television pictures and shots as well as using revealed espionage information at the world level, attracts the attention of the viewer to this significant point, that despite existence of advanced spying devices, which enjoy a special growth at the world's level, parallel with scientific advances and progress, human agents and factors still maintain their top role and position for the purpose of espionage and the collection of information.

In this regard one can refer to such superiorities of human agents and factors as the possibility of having contact with the personages who make key decisions in different countries, collection of fresh and hot information, as well as, proper assessment of the social environment. It is clear that advanced technical spying devices can under no circumstances compete with such agents and factors, and cannot replace them. The issue of significance of human factors becomes more evident, especially when the atmosphere of activity becomes tight and restricted for the agents of a country in another country.

In this regard, mention can be made of the U.S. position and situation in Iran after the revolution. Until before the Islamic revolution of Iran, the U.S. and Western states' need in human agents was very insignificant because of the existence of over 50,000 U.S. military advisers and thousands of civilian advisors from other Western states in Iran. The influence and penetration of these foreign and alien agents into the highest level of the U.S.-sponsored rule of the shah kept them in a position not to be in need of human agents, especially domestic ones.

Roger Cooper, the British spy who is currently under detention in Iran, is a clear example of such a case. In his confessions concerning the extent of his influence in the pillars of the subservient regime of shah [word indistinct] in the television program, "Secret Operations," he openly confesses to his interference as a translator in the political texts of Amir 'Abbas Hoveyda, the shah's premier for 13 years.

In the television program "Secret Operations" there are lots of such untold stories and though only the first part of this serial has been screened, it has attracted the attention of the people to a large extent. And probably those interested in this serial will count the minutes in order to see another episode of this serial, this coming Thursday.

"Secret Operations" is a program which should be screened in the Third World countries because they need to see such a program. This program totally reveals the spying goals of the West, especially the U.S., in other countries. And maybe its most important part is the issue of the U.S. Embassies, which have been recognized across the world as definite espionage centers.

In this special regarding case, it may be interesting to note that so far the U.S., despite all its claims of freedom loving, has not permitted the documents collected from the U.S. Embassy in Tehran to enter that country. A collection of these spying documents has presently amounted to 60 volumes of books and more continue to be published.

IRNA Notes Reaction to Hashemi-Rafsanjani Call

LD0805130889 Tehran IRNA in English 1259 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA—Two Iranian dailies commented in their editorials today on the Western as well as Palestinian reactions to the recent call by Iranian Majlis speaker on the Palestinians to retaliate against Zionist brutality.

On Al-Quds [Jerusalem] day, last Friday, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani advised Palestinian Muslims to kill five Americans, Britons or Frenchmen in retaliation for each Palestinian martyred by the Zionists in order to stop their genocide.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL quoted White House press secretary, Marlin Fitzwater, who termed Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statement "appalling and another step backwards for Iran from the community of civilized nations."

The daily brought to attention several examples of savage treatment of Palestinians by the Zionists such as "smashing to death children in front of their mothers." It also reminded the White House press secretary of the American downing of an Iranian passenger airliner in the Persian Gulf last year and raids on the Iranian oil-platforms and expressed surprise "Who is telling whom?" [sentence as received]

The English-language paper further expressed no wonder at what the Zionist state of Israel termed "a bloodthirsty idea" but was astonished why some Palestinians reacted in the same way.

The daily hoped more and more Muslim nations will realize their obligations towards the oppressed and tyrannized Muslim people of Palestine—their brethren—without paying heed to what the "perpetrators of international terrorism, led by the Great Satan," say about them.

The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI also commented on the subject and said what the Majlis speaker said originated from the Islamic Republic of Iran's long-standing position and fell well within the framework of the imam's firms stance that "Israeli must be eliminated."

"Israel, the U.S. and Britain, as the main partners of the Palestinian issue... [ellipses as received] see that the sharp point of the Islamic revolution's attacks is aimed at the illegitimate entity of Israel and precisely at those who want to preserve this dirty boil in the heart of the Islamic world."

It said the tough and apparently revolutionary slogans chanted by those claiming support for the Palestinian cause could never worry Israel and its backers. "They know that these slogans have no firm basis because they depend on petro-dollars as well as the conditional support of Arab courts."

Therefore, it concluded, Israel and its backers take seriously the day of Al-Quds and whatever is said on the occasion by the people and officials of Iran as well as by other world Muslims. They are sure whatever is uttered on this day would have strong popular backing and eventually turn to a "practical stance," it pointed out.

French Shi'ite Leader Criticizes Majlis Speaker

LD0605121689 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 6 May 89

[By correspondent Catherine Laurent]

[Text] There is no shortage of reactions to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's threats, starting with Ayatollah Rohani, the representative of the Iranian Shi'ite community in France:

[Rohani] I do not agree with these kinds of statements. They are irresponsible and un-Islamic. I was surprised to see a speaker of the Iranian parliament, a pragmatic statesman such as Hashemi-Rafsanjani, making such statements which do so much harm to the image of Iran abroad and also do not make his task easier.

[Laurent] In your opinion, why did Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani make such a call for murder? Is it to please Mr Khomeyni?

[Rohani] Hashemi-Rafsanjani made this statement reluctantly. He is compelled to please the extremists inside Iran. My position has been clear for 10 years: I am a moderate and 95 percent of the Iranian Shi'ite clergy agree with me; that is, they oppose the regime of Ayatollah Khomeyni. They are not extremists.

Khamene'i Leads Delegation to Beijing 8 May

LD0805173789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] President Khamene'i, heading a high-level delegation from our country at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart, left for Beijing this afternoon. He was seen off by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, a number of cabinet ministers, Islamic Majlis deputies, some clergymen, and military and security officials.

In a pre-departure interview with our reporter, the president described the objective of his trip to China as the strengthening of relations between the two countries in various areas. He said: Our talks will be conducted within the framework of commercial and economic issues in which some progress has been achieved so far. He said: These talks could expand future cooperation between the two countries.

The president added: The DPRK leader invited me previously but, due to various problems, the trip did not come off. We have very good relations with North Korea and I am optimistic about the future of relations between our two countries and we hope that we will be able to fulfill the needs of both sides.

Mirzadeh Previews Visit

LD0605181589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] On the eve of the trip by President Khamene'i to China, Mr Mirzadeh, chairman of the Iran-China joint committee, at a gathering of mass media correspondents this afternoon described the economic, technical, and commercial relations between Iran and China. He expressed the hope that the trip would be a turning point in the relations between the two countries.

He said: Considering the common historical ground and the sensitive position of the two countries since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the relations between the two countries has been improving. China, which ranked 40th among Iran's trading partners, has now risen to 6th place.

At the end of the interview, Mr Mirzadeh referred to the talks held during the fourth session of the Iran-China joint committee. He said: The volume of trade between the two countries, not counting projects, is planned to reach $600 million. That level of trade will naturally rise when China declares its readiness to do so and after the talks which will be held during this trip.

He added: During the fourth session, China asked to purchase twice the present amount of oil from Iran. Iran expressed its willingness to transfer technical knowledge from China, to Iran and increase the level of scientific and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

The fifth session of the joint committee of the two countries will be held in our country next summer.

Trade, Cultural Exchanges Seen

LD0705084389 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 7 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—Expansion of trade exchanges and cultural and scientific relations as well as China's active contribution in reconstruction efforts in Iran are among the goals of the visit of the high-powered Iranian delegation to China, said deputy prime minister for executive affairs here Saturday [6 May].

President 'Ali Khamene'i is to lead a delegation for a six-day visit from next Tuesday at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Yang Shangkun.

Hamid Mirzadeh described President Khamane'i's visit as a turning point in Tehran-Beijing relations. "China was Iran's 40th trade partner at the beginning of the revolution (1979), but now it occuped the 6th place," he said.

Predicting further expansion in bilateral relations he said China is involved in big economic projects in Iran including dam building, manufacture of power generations, paper plants, steel mills, petrochemicals and fishing.

Mirzadeh who also doubles as chairman of Iran-China Joint Economic Commission, said some dlrs. 100 million worth of Chinese raw materials has been exported to Iran in return for Iranian crude over the past eight months.

A delegation headed by deputy construction minister is now visiting China to make necessary preparations for a protocol likely to be signed during President Khamene'i's visit.

New proposals for high technological cooperation between the two countries have been included in the agenda of the fifth economic commission meeting of the two countries, to be held in Tehran next September, Mirzadeh said.

He foresaw the volume of mutual trade exchanges, excluding industrial projects, would reach dlrs. 600 million.

Tehran Commentary on Visit

LD0805175689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 8 May 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Following the official invitation from PRC President Yang Shangkun, Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i will lead a high-ranking delegation on a 6-day visit to that country starting today.

During his visit to China, Mr Khamene'i will review and discuss bilateral relations between the PRC and the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in economic, political, and cultural spheres, as well as regional and international issues with PRC President Yang Shangkun, and other high-ranking officials of that country.

Relations between the PRC and IRI have constantly enjoyed the special regard of the two countries' leaders, officials, and people. Their relations have encompassed various areas since the Islamic Revolution's victory and in recent years, in part because of Iran's policy of increasing political and economic cooperation with Third World countries. In this respect, one should mention the visit to China by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the summer of 1986, which was regarded a prelude to a new chapter in relations between the two countries.

The PRC and Iran, as two strategically important countries, enjoy various and extensive bases for mutual cooperation, especially since the PRC adopted positive stances during the imposed war and with regard to Resolution 598. These positions will not be forgotten by Iranian officials and the people. Without doubt, China's role will merit special significance in the era of reconstruction after the war, in view of that country's resources and capabilities.

This important fact has led to an increase in the volume of commercial trade between the two countries, to the extent that the PRC, which previously occupied 40th place among the countries who conduct commercial dealings with Iran, has now moved up to 6th place. Furthermore, the expansion of this trade on the basis of the fourth session of the joint commission has been estimated at approximately $600 million. The level of such transactions will increase after the two sides announce their preparedness. [passage omitted]

The two sides have yet to discover other potential areas in which they could cooperate, and consequently, there is no doubt that Mr Khamene'i's visit to the PRC will bring about greater awareness of such areas and capabilities.

On the eve of the Iranian president's significant trip to the PRC, political observers share the opinion that this visit and its results will lead to an increase and deepening of mutual relations between the two countries.

Construction Jihad Minister Leaves for DPRK

LD0805062189 Tehran IRNA in English 0610 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA—On the eve of President 'Ali Khamene'i's first visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Construction Jihad Minister Gholamreza Foruzesh, heading a 45-member delegation left here for Pyongyang Sunday evening [7 May].

After his 6-day trip to China, which starts tomorrow, Khamene'i will pay an official visit to North Korea.

Foruzesh is due to participate at the first session of Iran-DPRK joint commission.

At the end of the joint session, an agreement on mutual cooperation in fisheries, oil, agriculture, industry and commerce as well as scientific, technical and educational fields is expected to be signed between the two sides, in the presence of President Khamene'i.

The minister is being accompanied by experts from Ministries of Commerce, Mines and Metals, Roads and Transport, Industries, Housing and Urban Development, Oil, Energy, Culture and Islamic Guidance, Defence and IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

Envoy to Moscow Previews Majlis Leader's Visit

LD0605164289 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—The upcoming visit of the Iranian Majlis speaker to the Soviet Union as well as matters of mutual interest were discussed in a meeting between Iranian Ambassador Naser Heyrani-Nobari and Soviet Deputy Foriegn Minister Aleksandr Bessmernykh in Moscow today.

During the two-hour meeting the two sides reviewed matters relevant to the meeting of Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani with President Mikhail Gorbachev.

They also exchanged views on some regional and international issues.

Iraq Expells 105 Along Bakhtaran Border

LD0605083689 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 6, IRNA—Iraq over the past two days deported another group of 105 citizens of Iranian origin.

The batch including 75 women and children and 30 men were expelled via border strips along Bakhtaran Province.

There are nine Assyrians among the group and the rest are Kurds and Arabs.

They arrived in Iran on foot and were settled in one of the Bakhtaran refugee camps.

This brings to 215 the number of deportees since March 21. In a similar move, the Iraqi regime deported many Kurds and citizens of Iranian origin last year in several stages.

Lavasani, Red Cross Official Discuss POW's

LD0605191689 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani informed regional director of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for the Middle East on the condition of the Iranian POWs in Iraq, here today.

"Our criterion for the peace talks is the U.N. Resolution 598, and any plan outside the resolution's framework is not acceptable," Lavasani told the ICRC official. He also said Iran rejects any move which tends to have a negative impact on the process of the peace talks.

The Iraqi regime captured more than 700 Iranian forces after the cease-fire, "and this is a blatant breach of the cease-fire and contradicts all international regulations," Lavasani said.

The ICRC director in reply termed the Iraqi capture of Iranian forces after the cease-fire as "illogical" and said Baghdad was responsible for all the Iranian POWs in that country.

Lavasani also called on the ICRC to investigate the forceful dislodging of Iraqi Kurdish people by the Baghdad regime.

Velayati Urges ICRC Action

LD0705090289 Tehran IRNA in English 0806 GMT 7 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—Iran expects the International Red Cross to act for the release of over 700 Iranians captured by Iraq illegally after the ceasefire which took effect last August.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati made the remark in a meeting Saturday with the ICRC's [International Red Cross Committee] regional director.

He said although Iran had released many disabled prisoners of war unilaterally, similar moves by Iraq had not taken place.

Velayati also criticized Britain, the current head of the U.N. Security Council, for its stand on Resolution 598.

"The resolution was made to act as a basis for Iran-Iraq peace talks, but (Britain) who propagated that the international community desired its full implementation...is now breaking the resolution into pieces because of...their support for the Iraqi regime."

Iran is opposed to anything but the point by point implementation of the resolution.

Joint Maneuvers in Gulf, Strait Continue

Further on Operations

NC0805083389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Along with the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr, the grand maneuvers of the three branches of the Armed Forces—the ground, sea, and air forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran—began in the international waters of the Persian Gulf last night under the codename of "Zolfaqar-4."

These maneuvers will be held over a length of 250 nautical miles within the strategic Strait of Hormuz and the Kish Island area. The units taking part in the maneuvers include destroyers, frigates, logistical vessels, personnel carriers, (?aviation vessels), and flight units, and they will display their combat readiness to defend the sovereignty and interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this strategic area in 32 phases of operations.

Last evening, two phases of the "Zolfaqar-4" maneuvers were completed successfully. During these two phases the participating floating units carried out special operations of leaving their anchorage and moving into Persian Gulf waters. They also performed special (?strike) operations using certain techniques and expertise.

In the (?strike) operations, the divers of a hypothetical enemy approached our units in order to attack and lay mines by using various (?underwater) military equipment. The Islamic Republic's warships carried out special defensive maneuvers, identified the hypothetical enemy's divers, and before any action could take place repulsed the attack, forcing them to surrender or flee from the area.

During the 4 days of the "Zolfaqar-4" joint maneuvers, the ari, sea, and land, and infantry units will stage various joint exercises, including diving, telecommunications, and aerial [word indistinct] operations. They will also conduct an exercise of crossing mined channels.

Maneuvers Called 'Success'

LD0805125889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 08 May 89

[Report by station correspondent Payamani from Bandar-e 'Abbas]

[Text] On the 2d day of the "Zolfaqar-4" joint maneuvers special operations that involved passing through mineswept channels, defending against submarine threats, and foiling the tactics of the hypothetical enemy were undertaken this morning by the powerful naval fleet of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the course of this stage of the maneuvers, following the passage of vessels participating in the exercise through mineswept channels done in a fine military formation of warships, destroyers, missile launching, logistical, and personel-carrying vessels, the destroyers of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy carried out precise antisubmarine operations, and then attacked and destroyed the designated targets. The operations, which included coastal exercises by vessels under war conditions, demonstrated the quick reflexes of our country's brave naval personnel. They were a total success.

According to the remarks of the military commanders taking part in the "Zolfaqar-4" joint operations, the maneuvers, which are being carried out with the cooperation of the naval, air, and ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, have been performed thus far with great expertise in their [words indistinct] stages. The maneuvers demonstrate our Navy's excellent preparedness to confront any kind of enemy attack in the blue waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Navy Commander Comments

LD0805185189 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Khark warship, May 8, IRNA—"Zolfaqar-4" joint Navy-Army maneuvers are the biggest ever conducted by the Iranian naval forces, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan said here today.

More than 30 light and heavy frigates, missile launchers, and logistical ships along with a group of helicopters are participating in the four-day war games, started Sunday, to upgrade military capability of the Iranian Navy, and demonstrate Iran's naval power in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, said the commander.

Malekzadegan added that the number of units taking part in the maneuvers are more than previous ones. Iranian forces are to carry out mock amphibious operations in one of the southern shores.

Majlis Speaker Views Maneuvers

LD0905103489 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA—Acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani watched the final stage of the "Zolfaqar-4" joint maneuvers aboard "Khark" flagship in the Persian Gulf waters today.

All naval units backed by Air Force fighter bombers and missiles and artillery fire of the Ground Forces attacked hypothetic enemies in one of the southern shores.

This stage was followed by the mock amphibious operations during which several personnel carriers berthed at the shore and naval marines storming the enemy troops captured it. At the same time Army paratroopers landed behind enemy positions.

Two stages of the four-day maneuvers were held Monday night and early Tuesday morning when several "Tondar" gunboats and helicopters attacked an island.

The war games proved the excellent coordination among the three forces of the Islamic Republic Army.

Prosecutor General Kho'iniha Interviewed
PM0505162589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 20 Apr 89 pp 1, 3, 19

["Exclusive" interview with Prosecutor General Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Kho'iniha; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [KEYHAN] First, are you in favor of changing some parts of the Constitution and, if so, which parts? [passage omitted]

[Kho'iniha] We are not the first country to write a Constitution only to find that after a passage of time, when it comes to putting things into action, there are shortcomings. Some countries have changed their constitutions 20 times.

Officials in our country have been able during the past 10 years to see where the faults lie in the Constitution. A time comes when experts and those who are aware believe that there are problems within the Constitution. On the other hand, the needs of the country demand that officials move in a direction to run the country in a better way. It is clear in that situation that if the Constitution remains as it is, the officials in charge of the country will be placed under pressure and opposition to parts of the Constitution will increase. This is why its weaknesses must be corrected.

In the judicial system, where officers have on average 10 years' experience, everyone has come to the same conclusion. In the first few months after I entered the judicial system, the greatest difficulty that I faced, and I believed it to be this branch's biggest problem, was the fact that the management of the judiciary was coordinated in a council. Not only in the judicial system, but in no other branch can collective decisionmaking be successful. The only place this will work is in the lawmaking body where everyone can offer an opinion, where a majority vote can be the determining factor.

This creates no problems at all in the lawmaking branch. However, in other areas where a decision is needed for administrative reasons, a collective decision will not work. Some perhaps say that the Koran itself recommends councils, so how can it not work? The answer is clear: There is no place in the Korean that speaks of councils making decisions in administrative matters. The Prophet himself was told to consult with his aides, but to make his own decision after such consultations. God never placed decisionmaking in the hands of a council. He suggested consultations before a final decision.

Thus, a council is good when making laws. In administrtive work, a council should be a place for discussion. A successful minister consults with his deputies, but he does not leave the decisionmaking to others.

We encountered problems in the judiciary because we had to make decisions in a council. Faced with a special problem, none of the council members could decide by himself. He had to wait until the whole council met in session in order to discuss the matter. Sometimes, something on which a provincial manager could decide had to be discussed by five members of the council in order to come to a decision. A small issue that a local manager could have resolved in 5 minutes had to be discussed in a judicial council meeting. [passage omitted]

More important, responsibility is not clear. Naturally, when something is up to five people, and then something goes wrong, none of the five people made a decision by himself, so no one can be held responsible.

We sometimes traveled to the provinces to meet with managers, governors general, governors, Friday imams, and members of the public. They told us things about the judicial system, from which one would gather that there were problems in that area. However, we were not allowed to make a decision on the matter. We had to go back to the council. It is not always possible to convey all of one's findings in a council, so the person could not get the agreement of the entire Supreme Judicial Council. This meant the problem remained in the province and no one was responsible. [passage omitted]

That was to do with the judiciary. In the legislature, I believed from the beginning that the maximum number of deputies should be 270. Even at that time I felt that the more deputies in the Majlis, the more difficult it would be to decide on laws. Now, the Constitution says that every 10 years one person should be chosen as a deputy for every 150,000 people. This means about 400 deputies in the Majlis in the next few years.

Each of this crowd of 400 has the right to interfere in the affairs of the country. If they all want to express an opinion and if they all want to decide, every single decision would be delayed. I therefore feel there is room for change where the Constitution talks about the number of Majlis deputies.

I also believe the leadership council is a huge mistake. Following years of experience in the Supreme Judicial Council, I have come to the conclusion that in the management of the country, and in the leadership, a leadership council would be a catastrophe for the country.

When a council system doesn't work or overcome problems in the judicial system, which is just one part of the state machinery, how can council leadership be successful when decisions must be made on the spot. We saw how quickly the imam made his decision. If he had not, what a disaster it would have been for the country.

Now let us put this to a council. The council members all have to be there all the time; they have to be ready at all times to make decisions. If they are not ready, differences of opinion will result. If those who are at the summit of power in the country have differences, it can have a widespread effect in the country, causing immense problems. It is my own personal view that it would be catastrophic if the leadership of the country is placed in the hands of a council. This has to be solved within the Constitution. Of course, this is my own view and the final decision is up to the imam or a chosen body of people. [passage omitted]

My plan for the judicial system is that it be headed by the highest judicial authority in the country. There then should be a chief justice who would have responsibility over judicial matters and the supreme court. The general prosecutor should just be a judicial title without him being involved in the management of the judicial system. There should be a minister of justice to liaison between the various sections and the three branches of government. [passage omitted]

I have not been closely involved in executive matters, so I do not have a clear view with regard to executive powers. The powers given to a president elected by the people and the powers given to a prime minister are similar in all parts of the world. Fear of corruption exists—and the problems we fear are probably the same ones the writers of the Constitution feared. The fear of creating a kind of dictatorship, a concentration of power in one place, and the turning of one person into an all-powerful figure has brought about the formation of councils.

I feel it is important to keep within the law. If this is safeguarded, many fears will be removed. If it is established in our society that the people, the deputies who are lawmakers themselves, officials, and judicial officials all obey the law, if everyone acts within the law, there will be no worry about a concentration of power. Therefore, combining the post of president with that of the prime minister, would not in any way cause a concentration of power that would possibly lead to corruption. [passage omitted]

Our discussion concerns the president and the prime minister. There is no discussion on whether there should be a cabinet or any ministers. There is no talk of a president also being foreign minister, interior minister, education minister, or responsible for other ministries. There is no talk of all sections being directed from one place. There would be worry about concentration of power and corruption if that were to happen.

There will be no fear of concentration of power or dictatorship if we were to have a president who would choose a cabinet and introduce it to the Majlis for a vote, if all work is done in accordance with the law, the ministers act within the law, if there is no room for anyone depending on the views of a single person, and if society acts according to the law.

If the people complain about those who break the law and if the officials and those responsible have the capacity to accept that complaint, then there would be no danger of a dictatorship. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] If there is a separation between religious leadership and political leadership, isn't this in effect separating religion from politics? How can problems be solved?

[Kho'iniha] The question should be turned around. There is no question of religious leadership being separated from a political one. The issue is to see if the condition for being a leader is also to be a source of emulation. The question is: Does the leader of the country have to be a source of emulation, or one who knows Islam at a supreme level and is wise? Is it enough for him to be wise and just or does he also have to be a source of emulation?

In my view, it is not logical to say that the condition for leadership is to be a source of emulation. Being a source of emulation is an advantage to leadership, as it is today, in the person of the imam. There is no talk of leadership being separated from a source of emulation. The issue is to see if the condition of leadership is to be a source of emulation, or to be one who is wise and one who knows Islam. [passage omitted]

When the Council of Experts voted on Ayatollah Montazeri's future leadership, they accepted the fact that he was not a source of emulation. He himself accepts the fact that he is not a source of emulation. He says himself that if anyone wants to emulate him, they are in fact emulating the imam because he was one of the first people to recognize the imam as being one who has all the necessary prerequisites and one who has to be followed.

It makes no sense for me to tell the people to follow someone else and for them to say, no we want to follow you. So the issue of a leader being a source of emulation was not true in the case of Ayatollah Montazeri either. So the experts had made their decision based on other things, not the fact that Ayatollah Montazeri was a source of emulation.

Now, whether or not religion is separated from politics goes back to what I was saying earlier about law. It depends how much the regime pays attention to religion. If the Islamic Republic regime remains as it is now during the lifetime of the imam—if God is willing we hope that he will enjoy a long life—and if it stresses religious and

Islamic principles, the Muslim people will support it. All clergy, those who are sources of emulation and those who are not, will support it. The danger of religion separating from politics comes about if, God forbid, officials and managers of society deviate from religion.

Before the clergy can start complaining about this, the people will have to have problems with this. If, God forbid, there is a leader who is also a source of emulation, but who puts away religious principles, the people will start to have problems with him. At that time, religion will separate from politics. During the 10 years of our history, we have had a person who was a source of emulation, who separated from the line of Islam. That was when the people rejected him. [passage omitted]

The country's leadership presently is in the hands of a source of emulation, keeping in mind that some of our people emulate others, other than the imam. It is not proper for the other sources of emulation to say: Well, this is not my decree and the people will have to go against the imam's decree to follow mine. This also is bad for the management of the country. Whether or not the leader is a source of emulation, if he is wide and just, when he issues an order, it has to be obeyed by everyone. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] Is there a possibility that the Constitution would go through changes once in a while?

[Kho'iniha] One cannot close the door to this possibility. There is less chance of any changes being made in the Constitution in the future, than now. When we build something and we live in it for a while, we discover its faults. [passage omitted]

Faults with the Constitution that have caused problems have become obvious in the past 10 years. I feel that during the first 10 years some changes have become necessary. If at any other period, there is need for any change—it would not be in the near future.

[KEYHAN] Who is qualified to look into the Constitution?

[Kho'iniha] Of course, this is up to the imam and there is no one else better qualified to look into these qualifications. There is nothing within the document itself to suggest ways in which it can be corrected. Therefore, what is obvious is that the reins of power are in the hands of the faqih. He meets all the conditions. It is our view that the imam has the religious right to decide whatever is best for the country. [passage omitted]

Because the Constitution is so important, it seems that the imam would present whatever has to do with the document to the people for a general vote. If the people accept with a strong vote, what can stand against the vote of the people?

I believe that if the imam chooses a body for this purpose, that body should not just rely on its own votes. It should invite other experts, lawyers, and professors to look into the parts of the Constitution that are going to be changed. This should then be presented to the imam and if the imam agrees, there should be a general vote.

[KEYHAN] If someone reaches a high religious position and if he has all the other qualifications for a political leader, even though he might not be quite high enough in terms of religious law, can one still introduce him as a source of emulation?

[Kho'iniha] The issue of emulation is a personal matter, quite separate from affairs of the country or running the nation. This means that if someone wants to emulate someone in a personal matter, he has to go and ask someone who knows the issues. Usually one asks someone who knows best because in the hereafter, he wants to be assured that he has done everything right. Personal religous issues have nothing to with government.

The imam is the leader of society. He is also a source of emulation and the people all obey him when it comes to issues dealing with the management of the regime. However, some of these very same people emulate other clerics in religous matters. In political issues, not only the people, but those other sources of emulation are duty bound to obey the leader, when he is wise and just, and when there is a theocratic government.

[KEYHAN] What is the necessity of a referendum?

[Kho'iniha] I think it is necessary to strenghten the Constitution and in the sense that, in internal politics, it will have a positive result. Of course, I belive the majority of the people accept something when the imam offers a view, but at the same time, if it is put to a general vote and if the people's acceptance becomes public knowledge, it will not only foil the enemies' propaganda plots, it will have various positive results.

Editorial on Leadership Issue in Constitution

NC0805193089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 May 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Who Fits the Mold of Leadership After the Imam"]

[Text] The commission Imam Khomeyni appointed last week to study ways for making amendments to the Islamic Republic Constitution is swiftly proceeding with its task. The body has now formed four sub-committees and everything seems to be in motion to meet the two-month target within which it has to propose the necessary amendments to the Imam and the nation.

The Imam's son, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni too has been reported to be present in the commission's sessions. He reports the proceedings to the leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Meanwhile Ayatollah Meshkini has been elected the body's chairman, with Hojjat ol-Eslams Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani as his deputies.

The most significant issue the commission has to deal with concerns the issue of leadership after Imam Khomeyni.

The core of the problem lies in the fact that at present it is only Imam Khomeyni who meets all the qualifications listed for the post of the nation's leadership in the Constitution. Aside from his unique political management power the Imam is also among the most learned Islamic scholars and jurisprudents in the true sense of word.

The whole nation recognizes him as the most superior religious authority to follow in matters of religion (marja'-e taqlid).

So the commission's main task is to come out with its choice from among Moslem jurisprudents who enjoy the necessary political acumen to run the society's affairs, and introduce him to the nation.

It should be noted that there are, however, some figures in the first election of the country's leadership who possess the kind of stuff and quality needed for the post of leadership.

Among such personalities stand Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and President Khamene'i whose political insight and leadership have been accepted by both the imam and the people. Both enjoy a positive and clear background and, above all, both are mojtahid (authorities in Islamic law).

Some Iranian Persian dailies however have at present recommended that the Majlis speaker fits the mold of leadership while some other political circles are of the opinion that the president owns the qualities that make a good leader out of him.

Now another issue is which religious authority (marja') should people follow in matters of canonical law, an issue which requires another discussion.

But a decision of such magnitude needs much more deliberation. All the angles and points concerned must be adequately weighed. As such it seems best to give the issue some more time and not to make any hasty decision on an issue of such significance on which the whole future of the whole nation will pivot.

ETTELA'AT Editorial on Future Leadership

NC0905065289 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Apr 89 pp 1, 13

[Unattributed editorial: "The Future Leadership and Current Experiences"]

[Text] The resignation of Ayatollah Montazeri, the deputy leader, has given rise to the question of the future of the leadership and the leadership of the future. The call for a basic amendment to the Constitution can also be regarded as part of the same issue.

What is definite is that if the conditions needed for a leader are found in one person, then the selection of such a person will take priority over the selection of a council or a multi-member group. Experience, not only in Iran but all over the world, has shown that leadership in a council or collective form is not capable of operating efficiently.

As for the big issue of leadership—of course the issue of Ayatollah Montazeri is over—it is impossible to find a marja' [source of emulation] or even a jurisconsult who possesses on his own all the necesary chacteristics—as far as scientific and theological strength, especially in the social and political field, and also as far as a record of struggle or, better still, political insight—are concerned.

We have seen many scientific personalities and jurisconsults who have none of the political knowledge and awareness of Ayatollah Montazeri, and this they confess themselves. If these people have not had to face an issue like that of Mehdi Hashemi and his gang, it is because, first, these people were not in the extremely sensitive position that the deputy leader and successor to the leader was, and second, because they were not so severely examined.

The personality, firmness, and bravery of the imam are all exceptional, and the distance between the imam and those around him is great. Therefore, when Ayatollah Montazeri and the product of the imam's life is unable to undertake this successorship, and he states this sincerely, then one knows what to expect from the other scholars and respectable men. These people cannot top Ayatollah Montazeri, neither in jurisprudence nor in politics.

Therefore, if all the conditions are not found in one distinguished scholar—and reality shows that this is the case—there is no other alternative but to turn to the mojtahedin [senior clerics authorized to interpret Islamic law] who are currently involved in the country's administration affairs. The most that can be done if a leadership council is created is to have it composed of a group of mojtahedin who are in charge of the current administration of the country, as well as of some outstanding scholars.

However, first, as we said, a council—and a leadership council is an issue of an extremely sensitive nature which calls for great responsibility—which calls for determination and speed of action will not be a successful experience. Second, even if the leadership council is similar to the Expediency Discernment Council, or takes a new form, it is obvious that in such a council one person—whose qualifications outrank those of the others—should lead the council so that in the event differences arise, he can have the last say and can make the final decision at his own responsibility. This is what experience correctly shows!

If this does not happen, then the future of the leadership will not be too bright, and the leadership council too will turn into another Supreme Judiciary Council! Once it

faces complicated events and incidents, it will have to go into long discussions and debates, thus leaving many important issues of the country pending and in abeyance. This in turn will inflict blows on the system and the revolution.

Leadership councils everywhere in the world have been able to operate in council form. Of course, a council "facade" has been given to them as best as possible, but this facade has been without content. This has always been the case. The truth is that in all systems and countries one person eventually has the right of veto and the responsibility to have the last word and make the final decision. What is important is the characteristics of the person. Will he consider discussions and consultations to be a principle or not? Will the implementation of this basic principle be like second nature to him or not?

Now that the candidate for the future president has been selected by various factions that are faithful to Islam, the revolution, and the system, in view of existing realities and despite the problems that existed and exist now, if qualifications are taken as a criterion it seems that the speaker of the Majlis has the special characteristics required in order to assume the position of the head of a leadership council—that is, if it will be in council form. Reality too shows this same view.

15 Drug Smugglers Executed in Provinces 8 May

NC0805082289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 May 89

[Excerpt] Our next news report of the hour is on the execution of 15 more drug smugglers on the orders of the courts of the Islamic revolution in the cities of Shiraz, Tabriz, Zabol, Zahedan, and Esfahan. You will now hear this report:

According to the Central News Unit, the antinarcotics headquarters issued statement No 15, stating: In continuation of its decisive campaign against drug smugglers, 15 more professional drug smugglers were hanged in the cities of Shiraz, Tabriz, Zahedan, Zabol, and Esfahan this morning. [passage omitted].

Oil Exports Begin; Facilities Reconstructed

OW0805055389 Tokyo KYODO in English 0147 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 8 KYODO—Iran has renewed exporting oil products after an eight-year suspension caused by its war with Iraq, according to Japanese trading sources here.

They said exports from the Abadan refinery began Saturday and are likely to total 300,000 tons in fuel oil by the end of May. Customers include C. Itoh and Co. of Japan as well as Swiss and West German firms.

The refinery, which used to be the world's largest of its kind with a processing capacity of 650,000 barrels per day in crude oil, had been closed because of damage in the war. Reconstruction started after the ceasefire last summer.

One of the five refining facilities was completed and started oil production April 1, the sources said.

Iran is working to reconstruct damaged refineries and build new ones to gain more foreign currency.

A group of companies, including some from Japan, received a 234 billion yen order in April to build a new refinery in Arak southwest of Tehran.

New Ground Satellite Station Established

NC0705063189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 May 89

[Text] Behabad District in Yazd, with a population of 10,000, can now view the programs on Network 2 of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Central News Unit reports that thanks to the efforts of the unit of television transmitters of Yazd, and thanks to a ground satellite station and a 10-watt transmitter, the Behabad residents can view Network 2 programs of the Vision of the Islamic Repubic of Iran on Channel 8.

The report also states that with the operation of the Vision's Network 2 transmitter in Behabad, there are now six ground satellite transmitters in Yazd Province.

Pakistan

Official on Efforts To Check Nuclear Weapons

BK0505161189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] Pakistan has stressed the need for new efforts to check the spread of nuclear weapons and to devise a system to verify nuclear stockpiles and tests which allows no discrimination and is acceptable to all.

This was stated by Munir Ahmed Khan, chairman of the Pakistani Atomic Energy Commission, while addressing a symposium on science and world affairs in [name indistinct] today.

He said that primary responsibility for the control of nuclear weapons and tests lies with the big powers who should set the example in this regard so other countries may follow suit. He added that in view of the rapid development of science and technology, nuclear weapons technology cannot be restricted through the obsolete policies of restrictions.

Munir Ahmed called upon the international fraternity to help in taking steps to enhance mutual trust as has been done by Pakistan in proposing to set up a nuclear-free zone in the South Asian region.

Minister on Plans for Return of Afghan Refugees
BK0705160889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 May 89

[Text] Plans have been made for the return of Afghan refugees, the development of federally administered tribal areas, and the distribution of compensation to the (?people of) tribal areas economically affected by the presence of a large number of Afghan refugees.

This was stated by Mr Baz Mohammad Khan Khetran, federal minister for states and frontier regions, in an interview in Islamabad. He said under the plans, the return of the refugees can begin soon.

However, due to the current insecure situation in Afghanistan, it is not possible for the time being. Pakistan has granted refuge to its Afghan brethren and we will not force them to return home to the same situation which compelled them to take refuge.

The minister said about 1 lakh [100,000] more Afghan refugees, including women and children, crossed into Pakistan in the past few months. The government has established new tent villages in Peshawar, Mansehra, and Kohat for these refugees.

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